WILLIAM WINDOM

Memorial Tributes

1827—1891

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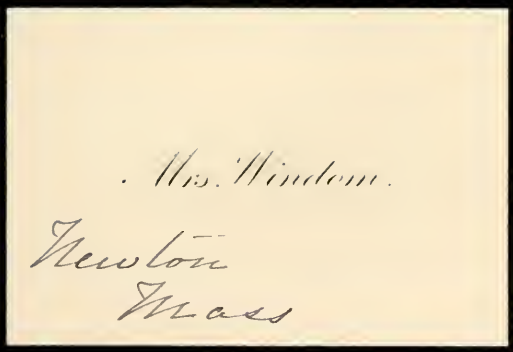
Mrs. Windom.
Newton
Mass

Sincerely Your Friend
William McKinley

ARTOTYPE, E. BIERSTADT, N. Y.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTES

TO THE

CHARACTER AND PUBLIC SERVICES

OF

WILLIAM WINDOM

TOGETHER WITH

HIS LAST ADDRESS

Love suffereth long, and is kind;
Love envieth not;
Love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,
Doth not behave itself unseemly,
Seeketh not her own,
Is not easily provoked,
Thinketh no evil;
Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;
Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things,
Endureth all things
ST. PAUL

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This volume is printed for private distribution among those to whom it will have a personal interest. While much of the material it contains has been otherwise published, yet as it has taken only a scattered and fugitive form, it is here grouped in more permanent shape, as a souvenir valuable to the family and immediate friends.

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Biographical Sketch

The ancestors of William Windom were consistent Quakers, and early migrated from England to America, settling in Virginia. His paternal and maternal grandfathers, George Windom and Nathan Spencer, removed to Ohio during the minority of his parents, and were among the pioneer farmers of Belmont County. Here, in the year 1817, Hezekiah Windom, at the age of twenty-one, wedded the Quaker maiden Mercy Spencer, who was two years his junior.

Two children were born to them, the younger, William Windom, on the "10th day of the 5th month," 1827.

The home of Hezekiah and Mercy Windom was a humble one, but it was a home of purity and peace. The mother always wore the Quaker garb, and the children as well as the parents used the Quaker forms of speech. After he was grown to manhood, and as long as his parents lived, Mr. Windom when visiting them, or in writing to them, naturally and easily resumed the "thee" and "thou" of his childhood.

In 1837 the family removed to Knox County in the same State. This was thenceforth the family home. Here, amid the limitations, the hard work, and the wholesome economies of pioneer farm life in the Buckeye State, William Windom spent the remainder of his boyhood and laid the foundations of his subsequent character and career. In that early day Knox County was far removed from the great markets, and the lack of any adequate means of transportation kept the price of farm products so low that little money came to fill the family purse. But the poverty of Hezekiah Windom was "the poverty of the frontier, which is indeed no poverty; it is but the beginning of wealth."

The boy's early educational advantages were only such as the country schools of that day afforded, and the eager reading of such books as were to be found in the small libraries of the neighborhood. Probably a lawyer had never been seen among the peaceable Quakers of Knox County; but in books, young Windom had met some fascinating representatives of the legal profession, and while still a mere lad, had settled in his own mind the question of a career. He would be a lawyer. To Hezekiah and Mercy Windom this was a most alarming declaration. Their religion had taught them to regard the profession of law with peculiar disfavor, and hoping to save

their son from so worldly and iniquitous a calling, they resolved that he should learn and follow "a good honest trade." But the lad's instincts and ambitions were stronger than parental purposes, and the result was an academic course at Martinsburg, Ohio, followed by a thorough course in law in the office of Judge R. C. Hurd of Mount Vernon. In 1850, at the age of twenty-three, Mr. Windom was admitted to the bar at Mount Vernon, and at once entered upon the practice of his profession.

As may be supposed, this result was not accomplished without great effort and self-denial. That Mr. Windom's parents finally acquiesced in their son's decision is evidenced by the fact that his father mortgaged his farm to raise a sum of money to assist him while pursuing his studies. This, however, was in the form of a loan, and was promptly repaid after he had entered upon the practice of law. While in the academy, Mr. Windom taught school in winter, and with his father and brother did the work of a man in the harvest-field in the summer. Also for a time, while studying law in Mount Vernon, he served several hours each day as assistant to the postmaster of the town. Though never boastful of his success in struggling with adverse circumstances, Mr. Windom regarded this part of his career with no sense of shame, but rather with a just and manly pride.

In 1855 the new Northwest was attracting the enterprising spirits of the Eastern and Central States. Mr. Windom felt a desire to identify himself with the stirring life of the great region then just opening to settlement beyond the upper Mississippi, in whose future he saw possibilities which subsequently were more than realized. Closing his office in Mount Vernon, and bidding adieu to old friends, he went to Minnesota, then a territory embracing thrice its present area, and, after a survey of the field, settled in the practice of law at Winona. Here he maintained a legal residence until the time of his death.

On the 20th of August, 1856, Mr. Windom was married in Warwick, Massachusetts, to Ellen Towne, third daughter of the Rev. R. C. Hatch of that place; the father being the officiating clergyman. The union thus formed was one of unbroken happiness, and nowhere did the combined sweetness and strength of Mr. Windom's nature make itself felt as in his own home. No shadow ever fell across its threshold, until that fatal night when its light was so suddenly extinguished. All who came within the sphere of his influence felt the charm of his personality. One who was ever a welcome guest writes, "He lifted me up; not up to his level — few could reach that — but up towards his high plane of life. I could always bear the burdens of life more easily after receiv-

ing the warm pressure of his hand and seeing his pleasant smile." Similar words might be quoted from scores of other friends.

Destiny had evidently marked Mr. Windom for a life of public service. In the autumn of 1858, at the age of thirty-one, he was elected as a Republican to the Thirty-sixth Congress, and was successively reëlected to serve in the Thirty-seventh, Thirty-eighth, Thirty-ninth and Fortieth Congresses, a period of ten years, terminating in 1869. In that year he was appointed to the United States Senate to fill the unexpired term of Hon. D. S. Norton, deceased. In 1871 he was elected to the United States Senate by the Legislature of Minnesota for the usual six years term, and was reëlected in 1877. In the National Republican Convention of 1880, Mr. Windom's name was presented and during twenty-eight ballots was adhered to by the delegates from Minnesota, as their candidate for the presidency. In March, 1881, he was appointed Secretary of the Treasury in the Cabinet of President Garfield. Retiring from the Treasury upon the death of the president and the accession of Mr. Arthur in the autumn of 1881, Mr. Windom was again reëlected to the United States Senate and served out the term expiring March 3, 1883, making an aggregate of twelve years in that body. From the last named date until March, 1889, with the

exception of a year spent in foreign travel with his family, he devoted himself to his private business, which hitherto had claimed too little of his attention. From this he was called by President Harrison to serve again as Secretary of the Treasury, the duties of which post he re-assumed March 4, 1889.

Entering the House of Representatives in the ardor of his youth, and when the rising tide of antislavery reform was reaching its culmination, Mr. Windom threw himself with enthusiasm into the conflict of ideas which was soon to result in a widespread conflict of arms. Two years later, and at the beginning of his second term in Congress, the war for the Union opened, and from that time until its victorious close, Mr. Windom, though among the youngest of the men then in the arena of national politics, helped to render the war period memorable in civic, as it was in martial affairs.

During his long service in the Senate, Mr. Windom was actively identified with many leading measures of legislation. From 1876 until he resigned his seat to take the portfolio of the Treasury in 1881, he occupied the arduous and responsible post of chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, and when he reëntered the Senate after the death of President Garfield, he became chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Shortly after 1870 began the agitation in respect to inland transportation. So widespread, especially among farmers, was the demand for improved facilities for reaching the markets of the world, that Congress was constrained to consider the problem in all its bearings. The Senate appointed a special committee on Transportation Routes to the Seaboard, of which Mr. Windom was made chairman. After very diligent study of the subject, during which, accompanied by several members of the committee, he visited the chief commercial centres of the Union, Mr. Windom wrote in 1874 a report of the committee's investigations and conclusions, which was published in two volumes by order of Congress. This report was a pioneer publication in the field which it covered, and has proved to be an invaluable magazine of carefully digested facts and just deductions which have contributed not a little to shape the legislation of Congress and various State legislatures affecting the carrying trade of the country.

In the United States Senate, twelve years after the report in question was laid before Congress and the country, Mr. Hoar of Massachusetts, in debating a resolution providing for a continuance of similar investigations, said, "I think Senators who have attended to the subject will agree generally that the most valuable state paper of mod-

ern times published by this country is the report made by the late Senator and Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Windom, from the Committee on Transportation Routes to the Seaboard on the general question of the relation of the railroads to the commerce of the country, and the means of controlling the railroads in the interests of commerce. That most instructive, valuable and profound report brings the subject down to the year 1873." [1]

In current comments by the press, and utterances by his contemporaries, quotations from which are given in this volume, will be found adequate mention of other public measures in which Mr. Windom took a leading part.

In the Cabinet of President Harrison Mr. Windom served from March 4, 1889, until January 29, 1891, the date of his death. Of the character of his work during that period, of the scenes which attended the close of his life and of the estimation in which he was held by his countrymen of all political parties, the following pages may be left to speak.

To all who knew Mr. Windom familiarly, or who had come within the atmosphere of his rare personality, any estimate of his character and

[1] *Congressional Record* of March 18, 1885.

WILLIAM WINDOM.

AT THE AGE OF FORTY

December 1867.

ARTOTYPE, E. BIERSTADT, N. Y.

career would seem purposely deficient which should omit reference to his strongly religious nature. In early manhood he publicly professed his faith in Christ, connecting himself with the Congregational church, of which he remained a consistent member until the time of his death; and throughout a lifetime of strenuous activity and conflict, covering a period of political agitation and tempest scarcely equaled in the history of men, he not only "bore the white flower of a blameless life" but maintained that inward spiritual calm which comes alone to him whose soul is anchored in an intelligent Christian faith. He was always impressed with what Professor Drummond calls the manliness of Christ. He neither paraded nor concealed the fact of his loyalty to his Maker, but he could not, if he would, have prevented the shining forth of that inward light which irradiated his whole being.

"Men there are in this loud stunning tide
Of human care and crime,
With whom the melodies abide
Of the everlasting chime:
Who carry music in their heart
Through dusky lane and wrangling mart,
Plying their daily task with busier feet,
Because their secret souls a holy strain repeat."

The Closing Day

Mr. Windom's well-known interest in the question of improved methods for the interchange of commodities and the upbuilding of the merchant marine of the United States, naturally brought him into touch with members of associations organized at commercial centres for the advancement of these interests. When, therefore, he received an invitation from the Board of Trade and Transportation of New York to attend their annual banquet, making its convenience secondary to his, and courteously allowing him to name the date, he at once accepted.

The official duties of the Secretary, always very exacting, were greatly augmented by the session of Congress, which was largely devoted to a discussion and formulation of financial measures; and the necessity for husbanding his strength forbade his attendance generally at public entertainments. In reply to some expressions of solicitude lest this additional tax upon his time and strength might prove too exhausting, Mr. Windom said that the occasion would place him among

friends with whom in former years he had labored in a common cause, and furnish an opportunity which he was unwilling to forego to urge measures which he considered to be of great importance to the country.

In responding to this call from New York, Mr. Windom accepted, not simply an invitation to a banquet, but a summons to the discharge of a duty as distinctly patriotic as any ever laid upon a public-spirited citizen of the Republic.

On the morning of Thursday, the 29th of January, Mr. Windom left Washington for New York with his private secretary, meeting in the car his colleagues, General Tracy, Secretary of the Navy, and the Hon. W. H. H. Miller, the Attorney-General, who were to be guests with him at the banquet and were also to deliver addresses.

The Attorney-General says: "Soon after the train started, I went to Mr. Windom's seat and for some time we talked together of various matters of public business. We discussed the Behring Sea question, the recent contest in regard to the same in the Supreme Court, and various suggestions were made looking to an adjustment of the dispute. Mr. Windom also broached and discussed quite fully the changes which he thought ought to be made in the customs regulations affecting the question of transportation, and outlined to me in a general way the plan of his ad-

dress. In this connection he said something quite characteristic of the man, as I estimate his character, and which can but be a pleasing recollection to his friends. In speaking of the financial part of his address, particularly of the silver question, he said, 'I shall talk plainly, because I feel earnestly upon this subject. I regard the right settlement of this question as vital to our national prosperity, and I am in just that position where I am not timid about telling the whole truth as I understand it. I have absolutely no ambition except to serve my country and my chief.'

"Mr. Windom also talked with General Tracy and myself of the business which he expected would engage his attention on Friday in New York — the pushing forward of the work of the Immigrant Station on Ellis Island, in order that there might be nothing to impede or cripple the department in its administration of the immigration laws in the spring."

The condition of arriving immigrants had excited Mr. Windom's compassionate interest, and he was intent upon comprehensive measures for ameliorating their condition, as well as for enforcing the laws excluding criminals and other undesirable classes. Among the reforms immediately introduced by him, upon transferring the immigration business at the port of New York to national control, were the banishment of runners

and other harpies from the immigrant station and its precincts, and the complete suppression of the sale of intoxicants on the government premises.

The Attorney-General further says: "Throughout the day Mr. Windom seemed to be feeling well, and even buoyant in spirits.

Arriving in New York, he was driven at once to the Fifth Avenue Hotel, where at the appointed hour a committee of the Board of Trade called, and escorted him to the place of the banquet.

In the parlors of Delmonico's were assembled many public men from various parts of the country, and leading merchants of New York, and conversation was stimulated by the renewal of former acquaintance, and the interchange of kindly greetings with old and new friends; the reception of guests and exchange of salutations occupying an hour. At seven o'clock Mr. Windom took the arm of the President of the Board, and, followed by the members and guests, led the way to the banquet hall, where he was seated at the right of the President, Mr. Ambrose Snow. On his right was the Secretary of the Navy. The scene was a brilliant one; art and wealth had combined to make the surroundings beautiful, and the interest of all was whetted by the anticipations of the evening. In accordance with his recent custom on similar occasions Mr. Windom scarcely partook of the banquet, permitting most

of the courses to pass untouched, and giving his time mainly to pleasant conversation. When the last course had been served, President Snow made a brief address, after which Judge Arnoux, the toastmaster of the evening, introduced the Secretary of the Treasury. Mr. Windom rose and began his remarks upon the sentiment, "Our Country's Prosperity dependent upon its Instruments of Commerce." He had selected this phrase in order that his text might be broad enough to cover the twin topic as it appeared to his own mind. He believed that a nation's transportation system and its money system are so closely allied that they should go hand in hand, and that the welfare of the former requires the most harmonious relations with the latter. He spoke in a full, resonant voice, distinctly audible in all parts of the room. "Every modulation of his voice and every gesture indicated the speaker who had himself and his subject under perfect control." Says the Attorney-General: "In regard to the speech, little need be said. It approves itself as a great speech and it was delivered with a fervor and earnestness and an oratorical power which I had never before observed in Mr. Windom, and which I have rarely seen surpassed by any one. It was a great speech delivered in a masterly manner, and it produced a profound impression on all who heard it."

He had proceeded but a few moments when it became evident that the enthusiasm of his auditors was aroused. Demonstrations of approval became more and more pronounced. These at length became so frequent and prolonged that the speaker paused to say that as others were to follow, and time was limited, he would be greatly obliged if they would allow him to proceed without interruption. Even this did not prevent frequent outbursts of applause. Occasionally he would depart from the text of his address to elaborate some essential point, or would throw in some witty remark in a most captivating way. There was no sign of weariness. Apparently he was happy in the consciousness that he was announcing great truths in a convincing manner, and that he carried with him the hearty approbation of his auditors. Mr. Windom spoke forty minutes, and closed amid applause which was almost bewildering — conscious that he had spoken acceptably, not only to a present audience whose esteem he prized, but to a nation which would read and weigh his words.

When the toastmaster attempted to introduce Mr. Bayard, who was to be the next speaker, he was interrupted by a demand for three more cheers for the Secretary of the Treasury. These were given with the greatest enthusiasm, all present rising, and in response the Secretary partially

arose and courteously bowed his acknowledgments.

The guests were resuming an attitude of attention, and the toastmaster of the evening was in the act of introducing Mr. Bayard, when those near Mr. Windom were startled by a change in his appearance. His eyes closed, and it was evident that some sudden weakness had fallen upon him. Prompt hands came to his support and physicians present were instantly in attendance. Tenderly the unconscious form was borne to an adjoining room and every effort was made to revive it, but in vain. The strong, loving heart had ceased to beat, and death, evidently instant and painless, had supplanted life. Nay, rather shall we not say, that life had conquered death, and the man we knew and loved as William Windom — no longer mortal — had "put on immortality."

The Obsequies

From accounts published in the daily journals of January 30th and February 2d, the following is condensed: —

January 30th.

Washington awoke this morning to be shocked throughout all the ranks of its life by the tidings of Secretary Windom's sudden death. The long period of his official life, and constant advancement under the immediate eye of our citizens had made him known and respected by everybody. But there was something beyond all this that gave keen edge to the general sorrow. He was everywhere loved, and the city is full of mourners. The national capital has felt a shock such as it has experienced but few times in its history, the explosion on the Princeton and the tragedies of assassination being its chief parallels. Everywhere over the city waves the flag at half mast; and the Treasury Department, the scene of Mr. Windom's greatest achievements, is heavily draped in black.

All social engagements are canceled, and both houses of Congress met but to adjourn. A few hours later, the funeral train bearing the body of the late Secretary, accompanied by the Secretary of the Navy, the Attorney-General, C. M. Hendley, Mr. Windom's private secretary, and an especial escort of honor appointed from the Board of Trade and Transportation, reached the city. Its reception at the station by the President and all the principal officers of the Government, together with many private citizens, was an impressive scene, and one not soon to be forgotten. The solemn cortège, headed by two mounted policemen, moved slowly, by way of Pennsylvania and Vermont avenues, to the residence of the late Secrtary on Massachusetts Avenue.

FEBRUARY 2d.

All the world of Washington helped to bear the body of William Windom to the grave to-day. There have not been more noted tributes of affection, nor marked manifestations of sincere grief, at the death of any public man here, since the days of Lincoln and Garfield. All the Executive Departments, District Government buildings and Post-offices were closed in respect to the memory of the deceased; the Supreme Court met only to adjourn, and Congress did not meet until after the body had been laid to rest. During the

early morning hours, there was a continuous throng of sincere mourners passing through the parlors of the family residence to take a last look at the face of the dead Secretary, which wore a calm and peaceful look, like that of one who had fallen into a gentle slumber.

At eleven o'clock the doors of the house were closed, and soon after a brief religious service was held, at which only the family and near relatives, the President, Vice-President, and members of the Cabinet with their families, were present.

During all this time, an immense crowd had been gathering around the house, along the route of the procession, and about the Church of the Covenant, but there was little need of the guard of mounted police which preceded the funeral train, the demeanor of the crowd plainly indicating that it had been drawn thither by respect and affection, rather than by idle curiosity.

When the funeral party arrived at the church, the great congregation — great in numbers and for the most part great in station and honors, but all bowed in equal humility in the presence of death — arose as by one impulse, and the organ breathed forth the low tones of a dirge, while the casket, borne aloft on the shoulders of the Treasury Guard, moved slowly up the aisle preceded by the members of the Cabinet, who were the honorary pall-bearers, and by the Rev. Dr. Hamlin,

reciting, "I am the resurrection and the life. And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die."

The church was devoid of decoration, except the numerous and beautiful floral tributes which were arranged in front of the pulpit and about the casket; none rested upon it, except a rope of violets which extended around the edge of the casket, and three magnificent palm branches crossed and tied with a purple ribbon. The pew formerly occupied by the deceased was vacant and heavily draped in black.

When the assembly was again seated, the hymn

"Jesus, lover of my soul,"

came in sweet, subdued voices from an unseen choir. When the last soft strains had died away, Dr. Hamlin arose and read a selection of passages full of consolation, beginning "Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."

The comforting words of Scripture fell like balm upon the sorrowing throng. "I will turn their mourning into joy, saith the Lord." "There shall be joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away."

The choir again sang a hymn which was a great favorite with Mr. Windom, beginning, —

"In the cross of Christ I glory,
Towering o'er the wrecks of time;

All the light of sacred story
Gathers round its head sublime."

The funeral address and prayer, by Dr. Hamlin, concluded the exercises.

The services throughout were most impressive in character, and wholly devoid of ostentation or display. The same simplicity prevailed at Rock Creek Cemetery, where the only reminder of earthly greatness was the long line of distinguished persons who followed the body to its last resting place.

Dr. Hamlin's Address

A MAN of charming affability, of unfailing courtesy, of quiet dignity, of beautiful refinement; a lawyer of judicial temper and an intuitive grasp of legal principles; a legislator of unwearying industry and of undaunted courage; a Cabinet officer of broad views, of sound policies, of abundant aggressiveness, joined to safe conservatism; a man of unsullied integrity; a citizen of unflinching patriotism; a friend, husband, father, of tenderest, manliest love; a Christian of sturdy faith, sincere humility, unostentatious piety, — such was William Windom. Such the world knew him to be in his long and varied public career. Such this city knew him to be, on whose streets, and in whose best homes, he has been a familiar figure since 1860. Such we here present knew him to be, who have been privileged to associate with him as colleagues, who have been honored with his friendship in business, or in social or Christian life.

Mr. Windom was born in Ohio. Like Lincoln,

Garfield, and a multitude of our noblest men, he was a child of the soil, not of city streets. Virginia was his ancestral State. Both parents were devout and godly Quakers. His early training was moral and religious. He was familiar in his youth with the hardships and limitations of pioneer farm life. But ambition soon began to stir within his heart. Though apprenticed to a trade, he felt himself capable of better things, and, with characteristic energy and concentration of effort, he turned to the study of law. His quick perception, strong logical bent, ready grasp of great principles, unflagging industry, and enormous capacity for work, insured speedy success, and at twenty-three years of age he was admitted to the bar. After two years' residence and practice at Mount Vernon, Ohio, he was elected prosecuting attorney for the county by a majority of 300, which meant a change of 1,300 votes, a striking presage thus early in life of the remarkable personal popularity that was always thenceforward to attend him.

In 1855 Mr. Windom removed to Winona, Minnesota, and that splendid State became his permanent home. But he was not to continue long in the practice of his profession. Within four years his hold upon the people had become such that he was elected to the Thirty-sixth Congress, and reëlected four times, after which he declined

further candidacy. His contemporaries in the House of Representatives included such men as Elihu B. Washburne, Owen Lovejoy, William A. Wheeler, Reuben E. Fenton, George H. Pendleton, William D. Kelley, Thaddeus Stevens, Samuel J. Randall, and many their equals, whose names, happily for the country, are not yet starred, and which, therefore, propriety forbids my mentioning. Mr. Windom promptly and fully met the sharp challenge of such fellow-legislators, and distinguished himself by notable service on various important committees, and by marked ability on the floor of the House. These ten years covered the periods of the Civil War and of reconstruction, in all whose great movements and measures he was prominent and influential.

Four months after the expiration of his fifth term in the House, he was appointed a Senator to fill the unexpired term of Daniel S. Norton. Twice he was elected to the same office, thus serving nearly thirteen years. Beside him in that chamber sat Roscoe Conkling, Zachariah Chandler, John A. Logan, Oliver P. Morton, Benjamin F. Wade, Simon Cameron, Thomas A. Hendricks, and many other men of preëminent talent, not a few of whom are here to-day in sincere sorrow. Amid these brilliant names, Mr. Windom's shines with steady lustre, not for captivating eloquence, nor for startling methods, but for patient indus-

try, broad views, and invaluable common-sense. In 1873, as chairman of a special committee on transportation, he wrote a report of several hundred pages, which is universally regarded as an exhaustive masterpiece. One of its direct results was the deepening of the mouth of the Mississippi River, a work of incomparable importance to the South and West. In 1876 he became chairman of the Senate Committee on Appropriations, a position that, amid the legislative complications then existing, involved herculean labors, all of which were patiently and successfully performed.

Twice Mr. Windom has been Secretary of the Treasury. He had great predecessors: Alexander Hamilton, first and greatest, who organized the Department; Albert Gallatin, reputed the chief financier of his age; Salmon P. Chase, who carried this Department of the Government safely through the appalling difficulties of the Civil War, and created the national banking system. Mr. Windom's opportunity for masterly financiering was scarcely as preëminent as they and some other secretaries have enjoyed; yet his courageous and brilliantly successful refunding scheme of 1881 ranks with the resumption of specie payments under the act of 1875, and Hamilton's immortal "Report on the Public Credit" is hardly more clear, far-sighted, and statesmanlike than the plea

of last Thursday night for what he believed to be sound currency and honest finance. His brave and timely exercise of his discretionary powers last autumn in the face of impending paralysis of all business and every industry, and which restored public confidence and averted national if not international disaster, was a thoroughly typical act. For Mr. Windom was not a statesman of the spectacular school. He had no fondness for *coups d'état.* He relied upon calm intelligence, upon industry, upon transparent integrity, upon the final good judgment of the people. This faith saved him from that scourge and nemesis of politicians, timidity. He always dared to do the thing he saw to be right; he always believed that in the end the right thing would secure the indorsement of the country that he loved so dearly and served with such incorruptible patriotism.

The House of Representatives, the Senate, the Cabinet, — these are all great places, and Mr. Windom did great work in them all. Still the man outweighs the statesman. We turn from public service to private life. His handsome face, his majestic head, his noble form, his beautiful smile, his genial greeting, attracted all eyes and won all hearts. He was unspoiled, unchanged, by the dizziest elevation. He was as courteous to the humblest man as to the highest; to the messengers and laborers in the Treasury as to his

fellow-officers in the Cabinet. Flattery never deceived him; adulation he abhorred. Display, pretense, ambition to outshine others, were simply alien to his nature. His character was as simple, as transparent, as a child's. What wonder that everybody was his friend; that everybody loved him; that in all this city, in his State, — indeed in all the land where he had ever been, — only the kindest thoughts are entertained, the kindest words spoken about him? So honest that, after a public life of thirty years, with its innumerable opportunities and subtle temptations, he leaves behind only a very modest fortune. So just that, in the tremendous pressure for official appointments at his disposal, no applicant, however disappointed, ever felt himself wronged. So patient that, in all that furious struggle, his closest and most constant observer testifies that he never saw him ruffled. So loyal to duty that he has been working on, during these last months, regardless of known peril to life, meanwhile refusing the most flattering and urgent offers to return to private business. So kind that thirty-five years of household life have left behind nothing that his family would wish erased or changed. Gentle, yet manly; firm in principle, but always open to conviction; ever approachable, yet ever dignified; courageous but not rash; progressive, but wisely conservative; with settled opinions, yet never censorious of those

who differed from him; open-eyed, clean-handed, pure-minded; a man to be admired, esteemed, trusted, loved.

Mr. Windom stood for purity in political life. If assailed by the shafts of envy and malice, an impenetrable armor of character was his protection, and the poisoned arrows fell, leaving him unscathed. When defeated for reëlection to the Senate he said to a friend: "Well, I have lost my place, but I have kept a clear conscience, and that is better than office." He stood for all moral reforms. The people knew exactly where to find him on every such question. Four years ago he shared the deep public conviction that something decisive must be done to check the audacious aggressions of the saloon. He presided at a national conference of several hundred representative men, and his noble speech was substantially the platform of the movement that has sensibly elevated public sentiment, strengthened weak men that ought to be leaders, and prepared the way for better things. In this, as in many other acts, he showed a simple incapacity to be deterred from doing a plain duty by consideration of expediency. He antagonized the saloon without a moment's thought of its effect upon his political fortunes, as he stood firmly to his last hour, and spoke with his last breath, against the importunate demand for unlimited coinage of silver. This

unfaltering conscientiousness won him the warm regard of all the people, without distinction of party; and since last Thursday night, men of all shades of political opinion have vied with each other in laying on his bier their tributes of perfect confidence in his integrity.

But, best of all, Mr. Windom was a Christian; an avowed, consistent Christian, whether practicing law in a Minnesota village, or sitting in the Senate of the United States, or administering the nation's finances at the head of the Treasury. He found nothing in locality, or position or office, that made it impracticable to be an outspoken follower of Jesus Christ. He found nothing in this city, and in his highest preferments, that prevented his living up to the principles that had proved right and wise in less conspicuous places and in humbler spheres.

Less than two years ago it was my privilege to spend an evening with him, and the conversation turned upon Sabbath observance. He defined his own custom of regular church attendance and of spending the remainder of the day quietly at home. He said: "You cannot imagine the pressure brought upon us here to abandon our principles and habits, but I stand firm. I have never accepted an invitation to dine on Sunday, and I never shall accept one." This was from no narrow, Puritanical notion about the Lord's day, nor

from any tradition of his childhood; it was a free, final determination of his mature life. The basis of it he thus expressed to another: "The world crowds me hard six days in the week; I cannot afford to let it have this one. I do not know how it may be with others, but for myself I need this rest from worldly care, and the opportunity to turn my thoughts to themes which the occupations of the week disallow."

Last June there was to be a reception in this church to a large body of delegates returning from the national convention of Christian Endeavor Societies at St. Louis. We wanted messages for these young people from men whose position would add weight to their words. I invited Mr. Windom to come and speak. He said: "My official duties tax my strength to the utmost. I come from my office at night too weary to read my evening papers. But I do not believe it is right for a Christian man to work so hard that he is incapacitated for his religious duties. I will come." He came; found an audience of hundreds of young men and women, and from this pulpit, with one of his colleagues in the Cabinet, spoke such wise and loving words of counsel as cheered and strengthened many hearts.

Only last week I asked him to write a few words for Christian Endeavor, to be used at its tenth anniversary to-morrow. His New York speech

prevented immediate compliance, but I learn that it was his purpose to comply with the request as soon as that public duty was discharged.

What wonder that a guest, who left his hospitable home one week ago this morning, said in parting: "Good-by, Mr. Windom; I am a better woman for having known you these three days."

What wonder that another guest said: "His prayers at the family altar were so tender and pleading that I could not restrain my tears."

What wonder that one of the most eminent jurists of the land, after more than fifty years of public life, and an almost unequaled acquaintance with eminent men, said on Saturday: "I have known Mr. Windom well for more than twenty years, and he was the most consistent Christian I have ever known in public life."

Nor was this Christian living any matter of superficial emotion, or of the compulsion of mere habit. Mr. Windom was as far from being a weak sentimentalist on the one hand as from being a narrow dogmatist on the other. He was a genuinely humble, devout, unostentatious follower of Jesus Christ. The foundations of his piety lay deep and strong. About a year ago, conversation leading in this direction, he said to his wife, — it sounds like prophecy now, — "Lest I might some time go and leave you without an opportunity to say this, I want you to have the comfort of

knowing that if I were to die to-day it would be in the sure and certain hope of a blessed immortality," directly adding that this hope was based, not on any personal worthiness, but solely on his abiding trust in the Living Redeemer.

The debt of gratitude we owe our departed friend is large and varied. For a steady influence in favor of pure and wise legislation through three-and-twenty years; for a ready voice in behalf of every reform; for escape from financial disaster on more than one occasion, — we are all his debtors; but most for the quiet, unheralded demonstration that no official place, how heavy soever its burdens, need prevent one from being an avowed, consistent Christian.

That such a life should end nobly on earth is only natural and fitting. To disregard, upon the simple sense of duty, the sharp and repeated warnings of a mortal disease; to deliver to leading and representative business men of the metropolis that masterful speech which summed up his knowledge and his principles of finance; to know that he had carried his auditor's minds and hearts, and to feel the thrill of a supreme hour in a matured life; and then, within two minutes of uttering his last word, while the applause is still ringing in his ears, to pass beyond earth's vexed problems into the peace and joy of immortality, — this is not death; this is translation! "The chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof!"

What a heritage, not only for the nation that mourns to-day, but for the household that mourns with a nearer and deeper sense of loss! To have partaken of a life so pure, so useful, so beautiful; to have only bright and sweet memories of every day; to have no awful questions about that life's blissful continuance beyond the veil; all this means grief for an irreparable loss, but no murmuring, no despair. It means the right to take the fullest comfort from every precious promise of God; to look away from the tomb into the open heavens. Patriot, legislator, statesman; loyal citizen, kind neighbor, faithful friend; tender husband, loving father, true man, devout Christian; until the day break, and the shadows flee away, hail and farewell!

Prayer was then offered as follows: —

O Lord Jesus, Thou hast brought immortal life to light through the Gospel. Thou hast sent, in the rise of the Sun of Righteousness, brighter beams into the tomb than are shining this morning into this sanctuary. Thou hast, through the rent veil of Thy flesh, opened for Thy trusting people a way into the very Holy of Holies, into the very presence of God. And now our brother has passed through. We see him no more; and we mourn our loss. Help us to be unselfish enough, help us to be keen-eyed enough in faith, to rejoice in his perfected glory, his infinite joy. Oh,

we beseech Thee, Lord, that we may not grovel in our thought and feeling upon the earth and in the dust; but may we rise superior even to these awful clouds that gather above us, and that seem to put out the very sun in the heavens. May we realize that we are just in the vestibule of immortality; that our friends have passed on before, and that we are following them.

Lord, we pray for Thy comfort to come to this smitten household in great measure. In fuller and deeper significance than ever before, may all Thy words of promise and of consolation fall upon their ears. May they be able to hear Thee in the still small voice of love, without one thought of reproach for their tears, without one thought of hardness in Thy heart; saying unto them, "As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort thee." Give them grace to accept comfort; to open their hearts wide to the dear Saviour; to dismiss any doubt or fear, any unworthy thought of him that hitherto may have vexed and troubled them.

We ask Thy blessing, Lord, upon all that mourn. We pray especially for those who have been associated with our departed brother in the high places of official responsibility in the land. We pray for Thy servant, the President, and for all the members of the Cabinet. May they be able to find in God and in Christ the consolation and strength, the wisdom and help, that in such an hour as this they so greatly need.

We pray for all that have sat beside our dear friend in the halls of legislation. We beseech Thee that they may follow Him as he followed Christ. We entreat

that upon none that have been associated with him in his official place and duty there may be lacking the solemn, blessed, saving impress of this wondrous translation into immortal life. Grant, Lord, that each one may say, "I, too, must be ready; I, too, will leave behind for my dear ones the assurance that I have gone with an unfaltering trust in the living Redeemer."

And so will the Lord bless our land. As one and another and another are called away, raise up men, wise and true and pure and good, to take the vacant places and carry on the work that has slipped from nerveless fingers. And grant, O Lord, Thou God of Nations, Thou King of Kings and Lord of Lords, to rule in all the councils of our land, so that we may be indeed Immanuel's land.

Wherever in distant States, wherever in other cities there is to-day the same grief that is in our hearts; wherever there are emblems of mourning; wherever there are those who are thinking of what is here transpiring, — we pray that Thy spirit may be present, and that Thy grace may be sufficient for their hearts.

The Lord bless this church. We thank Thee for all that Thy servant was here. We thank Thee for all the comfort and encouragement and help that he has been wont to give to his pastor, and to other worshipers in this sanctuary. Give us all courage to do the right. Give us all strength and wisdom. Help us to accomplish our work, and then take us to our reward.

Go with us, we pray Thee, O Thou blessed Master, Thou tender Friend, as we go to the house prepared for all the living. Be with us as we deposit this dust,

so precious, tenderly in the earth. Return with this household to their darkened home. Grant, we pray Thee, to sustain them in the hardest hours that are yet to come. Make good by Thine own presence the void in their hearts; and grant that with all human sympathy, which flows to them in such unlimited measure, there may come also the sympathy of God. And so, out of what we call calamity; out of what we see as disaster; out of what we term death, — may life and strength and victory arise for us, for our land, and for all the world.

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil: for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever.

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds through Jesus Christ; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be in and remain with you always. Amen.

THE following Executive Order was issued through the Secretary of State, sent to the heads of the several departments, and promulgated to the army in General Orders by command of General Schofield : —

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON,
January 30, 1891.

SIR, — The Honorable William Windom, Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, died suddenly last night in the city of New York at the hour of eleven minutes past ten o'clock, in the 64th year of his age.

Thus has passed away a man of pure life, an official of stainless integrity, distinguished by long and eminent service in both branches of Congress, and by being twice called to administer the national finances. His death has caused deep regret throughout the country, while to the President and those associated with him in the administration of the Government it comes as a personal sorrow. The President directs that all the departments of the Executive branch of the Government, and the officers subordinate thereto, shall manifest due respect to the memory of this eminent citizen in a manner consonant with the dignity of the office which he has honored by his devotion to public duty. The President further directs that the Treasury De-

partment in all its branches in this capital be draped in mourning for the period of thirty days, that on the day of the funeral the several Executive departments shall be closed, and that on all public buildings throughout the United States the national flag shall be displayed at half mast.

Very respectfully,

JAMES G. BLAINE.

Action by the Two Houses of Congress

The following is the press account of the proceedings in Congress on January 30th: —

THE CHAPLAIN'S PRAYER.

In the opening prayer in the Senate the sudden death of Secretary Windom was thus referred to by the chaplain, the Rev. J. C. Butler: —

To whom can we come but to Thee, O God, under this dark cloud? We rejoice that death does not end all. We pray Thee for the life immortal through Jesus Christ our Lord. Teach us so to live before God, obediently, humbly, prayerfully, and trustingly; so to live before men, charitably, kindly, and faithfully; that death may be to us but sleep. We thank Thee for that life so true, so pure, so useful, so long preserved, so good, moulded and fashioned by faith in Christ.

O Lord, hide not Thy face from us in the day of trouble. Look mercifully upon and deal tenderly with Thy handmaiden, and with that family now in great sorrow. Sustain and strengthen and comfort them, and cause faith to triumph in the hour of greatest darkness. Teach us so to live day by day, before

God, in the discharge of every duty, that, when we shall be called, we may be ready to die, and to live where they die no more.

CONGRESS ADJOURNS.

The journal of yesterday was then read, and as soon as the reading was ended Mr. Morrill rose, and, in a voice tremulous with emotion, said: "In consequence of the recent calamity which has visited us in the sudden decease of a former eminent member of this body and a distinguished officer of the Government, the Secretary of the Treasury, I move that the Senate do now adjourn."

The motion was agreed to, and the Senate adjourned till to-morrow at 11 A. M.

SADNESS IN THE SENATE.

There was a feeling of profound sadness in the Senate this morning when the Senators, already apprised of the death of their old-time colleague, gathered to listen to the eloquent words of the Chaplain.

Although a number of years have passed since Mr. Windom sat in the Senate, the membership of that body changes so slowly that there are still many Senators who were his colleagues, and upon whom his death falls as a personal loss.

The expressions of regret at his demise were far from perfunctory, and were characterized by the ring of genuine feeling. As Senator and Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, Mr. Windom had it in his power to do many kind offices to other Senators, and

that these were never refused to his colleagues is evidenced by the testimony that is volunteered by Senators on both sides of the chamber.

So, too, as Secretary of the Treasury during two administrations, he necessarily maintained in large measure his intimacy with his old colleagues, and his official relations with them were always characterized by geniality, delicate consideration, and uprightness.

This is the substance of the expression of many Senators. Some of them are well-known opponents of principles that were dear to Secretary Windom; some were his political antagonists; but there were none who failed to add their tribute to his personal character, and to speak in terms of highest praise of his signal ability as a business man and financial officer.

The feeling was general that his death has caused a gap in the Cabinet that cannot be easily filled, and that the President would have a difficult task to replace an adviser whose great ability as a financier, and deep insight into the motives and methods of legislators and business men, made his services well-nigh indispensable in trying times of financial stress.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

An air of sadness pervaded the Hall of Representatives this morning, and the prayer of the Chaplain was listened to with unusual intentness.

O God our Father, [he said,] stricken and overwhelmed with sorrow, we come before Thee with the startling sense of the instant death of a chief executive officer of the nation, whose public service has

been memorable and beneficent, whose devotion to the welfare of the commonwealth has been conspicuous, whose sweet and beautiful character as husband, father, friend, citizen, and gentleman has been his highest crown.

As the sobs of his broken-hearted wife and children in their darkened home come to our hearts, awakening in us the profoundest sympathy, we pray that Thy pitying love may descend to console them, and Thy good providence succor and provide for them. Grant that this startling event may bring home to us the solemn sense that in the midst of life we are in death.

So let the grasp of the world on us be loosened, and our thoughts be lifted to things that are imperishable and divine; and may we turn our steps to the paths of virtue, piety, and godliness, that whenever our summons shall come we shall pass from these scenes to our eternal rest at Thy right hand, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

RESOLUTIONS OF RESPECT.

The journal having been approved, Mr. McKinley, of Ohio, rose and offered the following resolution: —

Resolved, That the House of Representatives has heard with profound sorrow of the death of the Hon. William Windom, Secretary of the Treasury, who for ten years was a member of this body, and for twelve years a member of the Senate.

Resolved, That a committee of nine Representatives be appointed by the Speaker to join such committee as may be appointed by the Senate to attend the funeral of the late Secretary of the Treasury on behalf of

Congress, and to take such other action as may be proper in honor of the memory of the deceased, and as the appreciation of Congress of his public services.

The resolutions, seconded by Mr. Dunnell, of Minnesota, were unanimously adopted, and "as a further mark of respect," on the motion of Mr. McKinley the House immediately adjourned.

Action of the Treasury Department

At a meeting of the officials of the Treasury Department, Mr. Windom's late associates and subordinates, held on the 31st of January, 1891, Assistant Secretary O. L. Spaulding presiding, the following expression was presented by Assistant Secretary A. B. Nettleton, and amid deep feeling unanimously adopted by a rising vote: —

The sudden death of the Hon. William Windom, late Secretary of the Treasury, in the height of his powers and the fullness of his usefulness and fame, brings to us in common with all his countrymen a sense of irreparable loss.

A man who, from humble beginnings, reached and held a noble eminence, without forgetting the interests of the humble; a citizen who through thirty years in exalted public station proved that political activity and success are compatible with a pure and reverent life; a vigorous partisan who never placed his party's interest before his country's welfare; a statesman and patriot who with clear vision and splendid courage steadily refused to sacrifice enduring principles to ephemeral success, — the name and memory of William Windom need no monument.

For ten years a representative in Congress, twelve years in the United States Senate, twice called to ad-

minister the finances of the nation, — in all these positions of honor, trust, and influence he easily ranked among the natural leaders of men, rendered services to his country and his time which few have equaled, and left a record without a stain.

To the officers and employees of the great department of which at his death he was the honored head, this event comes with the force of a private and peculiar grief. While he was officially our chief, he caused us to feel that he was much more our associate, coworker, and friend. With a sweetness of spirit which never wearied, there was allied in him a quiet firmness which none could misunderstand, and which revealed the rounded strength of a great character. His instinctive sense of justice, which was never clouded by interest or warped by prejudice, permitted no subordinate to ask a second time for the redress of a real grievance.

With the sense of public and personal bereavement inseparable from the loss of such a man and statesman, it remains a consoling thought that the manner of his departure was permitted to be such as the greatest and best might desire, and such as must emphasize in the minds of men the memory of his distinguished life and work.

To Mrs. Windom, the worthy companion of our departed chief and friend, and to the stricken group at her fireside, we tender a sympathy born of a common sorrow. The memory of such a husband and father is a precious inheritance for his family, as the memory and career of such a patriot is a priceless legacy to his country.

Action of the Minnesota Legislature

On learning of the death of Secretary Windom, the Legislature of Minnesota, then in session, adjourned over from Friday until Monday out of respect to his memory. In seconding the resolution of adjournment in the State Senate, the Hon. Ignatius Donnelly spoke as follows: —

Mr. President, — I rise to second the motion just made, that the Senate adjourn until Monday out of respect to the late Mr. Windom. It is a fit and proper expression by this body of the profound feeling with which the people of our State have heard of Mr. Windom's unexpected death. He was our representative in the national administration, and filled a large and important place in the government of our country. The nation will grieve for his departure, and it is but right and just that the State of his adoption, which so often honored him, should not remain silent in the presence of his open grave. We are told that —

> "All who live must die,
> Passing through nature to eternity."

We carry within us, from the cradle to the grave,

the seeds of dissolution. In some sense Mr. Windom's death in the midst of that brilliant banquet scene, his lips yet warm with his own eloquence, and his ears still ringing with the plaudits of one of the greatest assemblages possible in our country, was a fitting close for the most uninterruptedly successful career ever known in the history of the United States. He fell uttering words of wisdom and inspiration to his countrymen, as the leader dies amid the clangor and uproar of the forefront of battle. It may be that the silence of the death chamber, amid the ministrations of the beloved and the consolations of religion, would have been more in accordance with the Christian's belief and hopes, but the great political leader has departed in the midst of the very glory, beauty, and triumph of life. "Like the stag sunstruck," he "tops the bounds and dies."

Mr. Windom may not be accounted by the historian one of the preëminent men of our generation, but he was nevertheless a very able and capable man. His sagacity was unerring, his practical wisdom great; his intuition keen. In political life he advanced so smoothly that he seemed to have solved the problem of motion without friction. His nature was noble. His heart was kindly. There was very little of malice in his composition. The fierceness and ferocity of party strife did not take hold upon him.

He was identified with the most important part of our national life at a time when the history of the nation transcended in importance all the previous records of civilized man. He bore himself honorably and

conspicuously in this great era. His record is part of the imperishable heritage of our State. It cannot be ignored or forgotten. We lament his loss. We advance and place upon his bier the wreath of remembrance wet with tears.

On reassembling, February 2d, the two houses of the Legislature unanimously adopted the following

RESOLUTIONS.

WHEREAS, in the sad and unexpected death of the Hon. William Windom, late Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, our nation has lost a wise, conservative counselor, our State a distinguished and valued citizen, and the family of the deceased a kind and affectionate husband and father; and,

WHEREAS, it seems eminently fitting, and the people of this his adopted State through their legislature desire, while the nation in sorrow bears his remains to the grave, to give formal expression to their profound grief on account of this their irreparable loss, — therefore be it

Resolved, by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota, that not only as a faithful citizen and a friend of our State, to whose interests he has ever been sincerely devoted, and in whose prosperity and welfare he has always rejoiced, but still more in his capacity as a statesman, in the glory of whose achievements the nation is justly proud, do the people of Minnesota deeply mourn his loss.

Resolved, That it is no idle or feigned tribute to his memory to say, that Mr. Windom, thus peremptorily called into eternity while in the maturity of his intellectual powers, at the pinnacle of the most uninterruptedly successful career known in the history of his country, with his last breath uttering words of wisdom and counsel to his fellow-men, and amid the plaudits of a nation, has reflected honor upon our State in a preëminent degree, and thus the poignancy of our sorrow as citizens is in keeping with the great loss the nation has sustained in his untimely death.

Resolved, That to the bereaved family of the distinguished dead the people of the State of Minnesota beg leave to tender the assurance of their profoundest sympathy and condolence in this their great affliction; and, that this may be done in due form, the secretary of the Senate is hereby instructed upon the adoption of these resolutions to transmit them to the Governor, who is hereby requested to sign and forward an engrossed copy of the same to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That a copy of the foregoing resolutions be spread upon the journal of the Senate and House of this day.

WILLIAM R. MERRIAM, *Governor.*
G. S. INES, *President of the Senate.*
F. N. VAN DUZEE, *Secretary of the Senate.*
E. F. CHAMPLIN, *Speaker of the House.*
P. J. SMALLEY, *Chief Clerk of the House.*

ST. PAUL, MINN., *February* 2, 1891.

REMARKS OF SENATOR TAWNEY.

In addressing the Senate upon the foregoing resolutions, Senator Tawney of Winona said : —

Mr. President, — It is with no ordinary interest that the people of Minnesota contemplate the scene that is transpiring in Washington to-day.

The national government is arrested in its wonted activities. There is silence in the halls of legislation. The departments are closed. There is a hush upon the streets. Emblems of bereavement are everywhere seen. Men walk softly and speak in whispers, as the solemn pageant passes by.

The government's chief financial officer has passed away; Windom is gone; his mortal remains are now being borne to their last resting place; and the nation mourns.

But while by these tokens the whole American people express their high appreciation of the departed statesman and their great loss in his death, it is to the people of Minnesota that the sense of bereavement comes with greatest poignancy.

The nation will fondly cherish the recollection of his triumphant career and his distinguished services, but the heritage of his fame belongs especially to Minnesota. This was the State of his adoption, and upon this State, in a peculiar sense, did he shed the lustre of his great achievement. He became a citizen of Minnesota in his early and unknown manhood. By its people was he sent to the national Congress for ten successive years; by its legislature was he twice

honored with a place in the national Senate; as the representative of this State he held a most important position in the councils of two administrations, and as an adopted and honored son of Minnesota his love and loyalty were warm and constant and true.

But I am not to forget that the people whom I represent in this Senate are the people amongst whom he had his home, the only home he had in our State. It was there that the qualities of his manhood were most closely observed and most intimately known, and there that the shock of his sudden departure is most keenly felt. To say that he was without fault would be to say that he was not human. But that he was endowed with a combination of most eminent and ennobling characteristics, both intellectual and moral, is shown in his illustrious career. He possessed a mind capable of dealing with great subjects. He rose to the dignity and requirements of every position he was called upon to fill. Of every task committed to his hands he made himself the master. There was a power of concentration, of analysis, of unflagging persistence, that drove down to the roots of things. He did not dwell amid superficial details. His thought reached after and took hold of principles. Hence his profound convictions, in the firm and constant maintenance of which he was both conscientious and consistent. Yet, however strenuous his advocacy, or with whatever force of repulsion he met the attacks of opposition, there was in it all a breath of manhood, a nobility of bearing, a kindliness and liberality of spirit, that won the admiration even of those who differed from him.

The genial warmth of his social nature, the ready sympathy with which he extended the hand of greeting or of help toward the toiler and the needy, his generous reciprocation of the friendship even of the lowly, his conspicuous honesty in all the relations of life, the elevation and purity of his mind and purposes, — these all conspired to endear him as a man and citizen to those who knew him best.

His sudden and almost tragic end, though it greatly intensified the shock of his departure, is hardly to be regarded as a misfortune. No evening shadows were permitted to gather upon his unclouded life. He was spared the feeling of departing strength and waning influence. But at noontide, and from one of the sunniest heights of earthly eminence, he was permitted to pass through the veil, beyond the shadows, into the brighter realm of the hereafter.

And if in the name of my constituents — the neighbors and friends of the departed, who knew him and loved him — I may place in the wreath that surrounds his illustrious name one flower, leaf, or spray, it will be a small memento of their sincere and unfeigned affection.

At a meeting of the Minnesota Senators and Representatives, and of the citizens of Minnesota resident and sojourning in Washington, held at the rooms of the Senate Committee on Pensions to take appropriate action respecting the memory of the late Hon. William Windom, Secretary of the Treasury, it was —

Resolved, That we received with heartfelt sorrow the intelligence of the death of Mr. Windom, who was stricken suddenly in the performance of duty, in the full enjoyment of his faculties, at the summit of a great career, in which he reflected honor upon the State of Minnesota and the nation for more than thirty years as Member of Congress, as Senator, and as Cabinet Minister.

That we extend to his widow and family our tenderest condolence for their irreparable bereavement.

That the delegation in Congress, and citizens of Minnesota resident or sojourning in Washington, will in a body attend the funeral of the deceased statesman, friend, and neighbor.

That a copy of these resolutions be sent to Mrs. Windom by Senator Davis, the chairman of this meeting.

New York, *January* 30, 1891.

At a special meeting of the Board of Trade and Transportation, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted, and a committee of fifteen was appointed to attend the funeral of the late Secretary in Washington: —

William Windom, Secretary of the Treasury, died while our guest, and just as he had spoken to us words of weighty wisdom and true courage. It is, therefore, peculiarly fitting that this Board should express the deep sense of the business men of New York of the services which he has rendered to the Republic, and of the personal loss that so many of us have sustained in his sudden death.

At the organization of our Board he was our associate and adviser. During all our existence he has been our faithful friend and helper.

The New York Board of Trade and Transportation places this minute upon its records in honor of a good citizen, a wise man, and an honest and brave official.

For more than thirty years William Windom has been prominent in American public life. Long service in the national House of Representatives, repeated terms in the federal Senate, and the Secretaryship of the Treasury under Presidents Garfield and Harrison,

had combined to give him rare opportunities to know the needs, appreciate the growth, and estimate the possibilities of the nation. He used these opportunities wisely and well. During the entire Civil War he was the trusted friend and adviser of President Lincoln. As a Representative and Senator he favored all measures that looked toward the practical and efficient development of our great internal resources. As Secretary of the Treasury under President Garfield he successfully refunded the maturing national debt by methods so simple, so economical, and so masterful as to prove him a truly great financier, a worthy successor to Hamilton, Chase, and Sherman. As Secretary under President Harrison he labored courageously and successfully to avert widespread panic in a season of threatened financial trouble.

He died speaking earnest and strong words against the madness of free coinage of silver under existing financial conditions. He fell at the post of duty as truly as a soldier falls on the field of battle.

Resolved, That a copy of this minute be transmitted to the family of the deceased, and to the President and members of the Cabinet.

At a meeting held February 12, 1891, the Union League Club of New York unanimously adopted the following

RESOLUTIONS.

Resolved, That the members of the Union League Club, in common with their fellow-citizens, recognize the great loss which the American people have suffered by the death of William Windom, the late Secretary of the Treasury.

Resolved, That the career of this eminent public man is contemplated with pride and satisfaction by all who appreciate that which constitutes the highest realization of that type of American citizenship which exercises the wisest and most wholesome influence in shaping the careers and directing the aspirations of those who are to participate in the legislative as well as the administrative functions of government.

Resolved, That it is peculiarly fitting that the Union League Club should give expression to the esteem in which the statesman and the man are held by an institution which owes so much of the accomplishment of the work it has undertaken to perform in the public behalf to the coöperation, sympathy, intelligence and moral firmness of public men of the class of which

William Windom was one of the noblest and strongest exponents. Few men in public life had so wide an experience or so thorough a training, and no man in public life was more ready or willing to sympathize with and promote whatever was for the general weal.

The ripe experience, ample knowledge, and wide observation acquired by an unusually long and varied experience in the legislative and administrative branches of the national government, enabled him to render services of an invaluable nature to the commercial and financial interests of the country. At the head of the Finance Committee of the Senate and as Secretary of the Treasury he was never carried away by unreasoning popular clamor. His conciliatory temper, united to firmness of character and thorough knowledge of the questions with which he was required to deal, rendered his services of inestimable value where conflicting interests were involved.

The Union League Club and the city of New York have a right to pay and do pay homage to the memory of William Windom; and the American people, above all, should revere his name on account of the purity of his life, the loftiness of his aims, and the conscientiousness and thoroughness of the work that he performed.

Resolved, That a copy of this testimonial be transmitted to the family of the deceased, and to the President of the United States.

CHAUNCEY M. DEPEW, *President.*

J. S. PAGE, *Secretary.*

Memorial Resolutions

The following press telegram states the action taken by the business men at Mr. Windom's Minnesota home: —

Winona, Minn., *January* 30.

It was with great sorrow on the part of the citizens of Winona, the old home of Secretary Windom, that the news of his death was received in this city this morning. Flags were placed at half-mast, and draped portraits of the deceased Secretary were displayed in the windows of business houses. A special meeting of the Board of Trade was held this evening, at which the following resolutions were passed: —

Whereas, the members of this Board of Trade and the citizens of Winona in general, have learned with profound grief of the sudden and unexpected death of their fellow-member and fellow-townsman, William Windom, Secretary of the Treasury; and,

Whereas, some formal expression by this body concerning an event so startling and sad seems especially appropriate, — therefore

Resolved, That not only as a member of this Board, nor as an eminent citizen of Winona and of the State, to whose interests he has ever been sincerely devoted and over whose welfare he always rejoiced, but still

more in his capacity as a statesman, of whose brilliant achievements the nation is justly proud, do we mourn his loss to-day. It is no idle or feigned tribute to his memory to say that Mr. Windom, thus suddenly cut down in the very maturity of his intellectual power and in the midst of a career of unsurpassed public usefulness, has reflected honor upon the city and State of his adoption in a preëminent degree, and that the poignancy of our sorrow as his friends and as citizens of Minnesota is in keeping with the extent of the great loss which the nation sustains in his untimely death.

Resolved, That to the bereaved family of the distinguished dead we beg leave to tender the assurance of our profoundest sympathy and condolence in their terrible affliction, and, that this may be done in due form, the secretary of this Board is requested to communicate with Mrs. Windom and furnish her with a copy of these resolutions.

Resolved, That the rooms of this Board, of which body the late Secretary of the Treasury has been a member from its organization until his death, be suitably draped in mourning for the period of thirty days.

The Ohio Society of New York took action regarding the death of Mr. Windom by adopting the following resolutions, and appointing a committee of twelve to represent the Society at his funeral: —

Resolved, That this Society has taken affectionate pride in the distinguished and valuable career of the

late Secretary of the Treasury, William Windom, being interested in him both from his connection with this Society and as a native of Ohio.

Resolved, That our admiration of his public services has been quickened by personal esteem, and by the charm of his personal acquaintance.

Resolved, That to our sorrow at his loss is added our profound sympathy with his family, whose loss our knowledge of him enables us to appreciate, and to whom we beg leave to extend our sincere consolation and to report this tribute to his worth.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to the family.

The New York Chamber of Commerce, at its regular monthly meeting, held February 5, 1891, suspended the ordinary business and adopted resolutions expressive of its "deep sense of the loss the nation has sustained" in the death of Mr. Windom. Touching tributes were paid to his memory by the President of the Chamber, Mr. Charles S. Smith, and others.

In seconding the resolutions Mr. J. Edward Simmons said:—

. . . . . .

Mr. Windom was a statesman of rare and rich attainments, strengthened by a long and faithful service to his country. Dignified in all the relations of life, honored alike for his unsullied character by his political associates and by those with whom he differed on

political and economic questions, he brought to the great office of Secretary of the Treasury the mature wisdom gained by a long and intimate acquaintance with the needs of the people. He was discreet in the discharge of his official duty, and there was a general confidence in his ability and integrity that inspired a feeling of security on the part of men especially prominent in all the activities of finance, trade and commerce. In the midst of a career of usefulness, with mighty responsibilities resting upon him, at a time when questions of momentous importance engrossed the public mind, just as he had announced his views with all the vigor of intelligent thought and with prophetic warning on the great financial and economic questions of the day, his heart ceased to beat, and around his bier a nation gathers in tender sympathy with the bereaved, and in profound grief that an eminent citizen of the Republic has been removed from the high trust which he adorned. William Windom, the statesman, the patriot, the Christian, — an illustration of the living power of a noble faith in the loftiest walks of political labor, — has laid aside the armor he wore in the conflict, brighter for its service in his public and private life, to wear the crown of the conqueror. Faithful to duty, faithful to his convictions, faithful to friendship, faithful in all things, his life is a lesson and its close a public loss.

Mr. Charles Watrous said: —

Mr. President, — I do not propose to allude to the public life of Mr. Windom and his great ser-

vices to the country, for they are matters of history with which all in this Chamber are familiar, but to his private and domestic life, for it was there I knew him best.

His affability, gentleness and kindness to all who had the privilege of being admitted to his family circle, as well as to those with whom he had intercourse in official life, showed that he possessed a sweetness of nature rarely if ever equaled. . . .

He was most loving and indulgent in all his domestic relations; an earnest, devout, consistent, self-forgetful and Christian gentleman.

In his death the country has lost a great man, and the church, society, and all the virtues that help to form our civilization have been deprived of an able advocate and an uncompromising defender.

Resolutions similar in tenor to the foregoing were adopted by the following legislative and civic bodies: —

Legislature of the State of New York.
Pennsylvania General Assembly.
Philadelphia Custom House.
Baltimore Custom House.
Mercantile Exchange of New York.
Legislature of the State of Indiana.
German Society of New York.
Minneapolis Board of Trade.
Legislature of the State of Maine.
Representatives in Washington of Banking Interests.

Supervising Inspectors of Steam Vessels for the Port of Philadelphia.

Representatives in New York of Banking Interests.

Legislature of the State of Nebraska.

Winona Savings Bank.

Legislature of the State of Texas.

Supervising Inspectors of Steam Vessels in the Port of Baltimore.

Citizens of St. Cloud (Minn.).

Unconditional Republican Club of New York.

Bethany Bible Class of Philadelphia.

Legislature of Arizona.

Real Estate Auctioneers' Association of New York.

U. S. Grant Club of Brooklyn.

Maritime Association of the Port of New York.

Republican Club, Ninth District of New York.

Federal Club of Madison Avenue, New York.

Chamber of Commerce, Pensacola, Fla.

Custom House in Galveston, Texas.

Enrolled Republicans of the Twenty-third Ward of New York.

New York Turner Cadets.

Board of Trade in McKeesport, Pa.

Ex-New York Turner Cadets.

Legislature of New Mexico.

In many instances the resolutions and tributes were presented in beautiful and enduring form.

The Rev. Dr. Rankin, at the regular Sunday afternoon service at Howard University, February 2, said: —

For many years Mr. Windom was my parishioner in this city. I was frequently in his Christian home, I was frequently in his business office, I saw him under many different circumstances, and I never met him but he was the same urbane, dignified, agreeable gentleman, with especial sympathy for the abused and oppressed. He was a man singularly and beautifully free from the petty weaknesses of humanity, and remarkably endowed with great moral and intellectual excellences.

The manner of his death. at first thought so tragic, was really but the appropriate culmination of his great public career, of his singular service to the State as her accredited financier.

At the meeting of the Board of Trade to which came that uninvited guest, Secretary Windom stood among the business minds of the great metropolis, and spoke to them words of such large wisdom, he stood there, himself so largely the embodiment of the great public service he had rendered and was rendering, that, enthusiastic as was the recognition given him, it did not seem beyond his desert. He received that recognition, and then in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, he was transferred to higher service in heaven, even as though the nation had heard it said, "Because thou hast been faithful over the unrighteous mammon, I will give thee the true riches."

Letters of Condolence

From among many hundreds of letters and telegrams which came from all parts of our own land and from distant countries, expressing sorrow for the death of Mr. Windom, and sympathy with his bereaved family, the following, from persons with whom he was associated in public life, are given. Others, not less valued, are withheld, their expressions of affectionate condolence being too personal to be shared even with the circle of friends to whom this little volume goes.

FROM THE PRESIDENT.

Executive Mansion, Washington,
June 13, 1891.

My dear Mrs. Windom, — I have learned with great pleasure that there is in course of preparation a memorial of your honored husband, and I would like to be permitted to contribute a few words of friendly appreciation.

My real acquaintance with Mr. Windom began with his first service as Secretary of the Treasury under President Garfield, and grew into an intimacy of the strongest personal confidence and friendship, increasing as our intercourse became closer. Intercourse with

Mr. Windom, whether personal or official, was always delightful. He was a man of warm and generous impulses, of a placid and genial temperament, and of great mental resources. His relations to me as a Cabinet officer were in the highest degree satisfactory from an official standpoint, and always characterized by absolute personal confidence and friendliness. No single incident involving misunderstanding or the smallest irritation occurred between us during our official connection. His loyalty to duty was most conspicuous; and I had a sense of perfect confidence in his administration of the great department committed to him. He was more than a safe administrator of the Treasury in its ordinary routine. He was a financier full of wise expedients and original suggestions. His death was a very affecting dispensation to me. He had served his country well, and has left to his countrymen, by deed and word, lessons and suggestions that are worthy of their profound attention.

Very truly yours,

BENJAMIN HARRISON.

FROM SECRETARY BLAINE.

WASHINGTON, *February* 4, 1891.

MY DEAR MRS. WINDOM, — I thought it well to withhold the enclosed dispatches of condolence until after the sad solemnities of yesterday. These expressions show the great reputation which your beloved husband had acquired in the empires of Europe.

Let me add, my dear Mrs. Windom, though it bring no consolation to you, the profound sense of loss which I feel in the death of Mr. Windom. I recall our most pleasant and cordial acquaintance of thirty years: the last two, of very close association, were, I feel sure, full of mutual helpfulness and unselfish friendship.

. . . . . .

I know not, my dear Mrs. Windom, what word of consolation I can speak to you. But surely the memory of Mr. Windom is itself a consolation. Able, conscientious, patriotic, devoted as a public officer, he certainly was, in as great a degree as any one I have ever met; and I mourn him as a friend whose loss is great to me personally, and in a far more important sense to the country. . . .

Most sincerely your friend,

JAMES G. BLAINE.

FROM EX-PRESIDENT HAYES.

Spiegel Grove, Fremont, Ohio.

Dear Mrs. Windom, —

. . . . . .

My friendship for your honored husband began in 1865, when we met in the House of Representatives as members of the Thirty-ninth Congress. He had then been a member of Congress three terms, and was recognized by all as an able and rising man. He combined in an unusual degree good temper and a sound judgment with energy, perseverance, and firmness. He made friends without effort, and no man had good reason to be his enemy. He won confidence by deserving it. His whole conduct, public and private, was marked by the essential virtues of moderation and wisdom, of honesty and fidelity to duty. One of the most eminent of his colleagues in the Senate spoke of him as his ideal of what a President of the Nation ought to be.

He did not succeed by brilliancy or magnetism. He was safe. He could be trusted. Those who knew him best loved him most. He died in the maturity of his powers, and it is felt throughout the land that a wise and patriotic statesman has fallen. Friendly words about him come from every quarter. His fame as a man and a statesman was largely due to his noble and stainless character.

With all sympathy in your bereavement,

Rutherford B. Hayes.

FROM EX-SECRETARY BAYARD.

My dear Mrs. Windom, —

. . . . . .

It gives me a sincere though melancholy pleasure to dwell upon the public and personal virtues of my friend your beloved husband. He was an eminent member of the House of Representatives when I first entered the Senate. His transfer to the Senate soon followed, and I became better aware of his admirable faculties for conducting public business. It was not long before the relations between us became those of confidential and friendly coöperation. I witnessed his life and service in the Senate and in the Cabinet; always respecting his motives, admiring his capacity, and not withholding my tribute of personal assistance and public acknowledgment and praise. I heard his last earnest and impressive words of wise counsel to his countrymen, and it now seems to me that his was the manner and occasion of death most merciful, — most to be desired. His heart was throbbing with patriotic impulse; his intellect was shedding its rays to enlighten and benefit his country; his life had been conducted reverently to God, — purely, honestly, and dutifully. Who, then, shall doubt that painlessly and quickly he entered into his reward. . . .

Believe me, dear Mrs. Windom, truly and respectfully, Your fellow-mourner,

T. F. Bayard.

FROM EX-SECRETARY McCULLOCH.

WASHINGTON, *January* 31, 1891.

DEAR MRS. WINDOM, —

. . . . . .

Although I had most favorably known Mr. Windom for many years, my estimate of his character and of the value of his services to the country was greatly increased after he became for the second time Secretary of the Treasury. In him were eminently combined characteristic virtues and abilities for the proper performance of public duties of a very important and difficult character.

By all who had the honor of his personal acquaintance he was most highly respected, and you have their heartfelt sympathy.

Your friend,

HUGH McCULLOCH.

FROM SENATOR MORRILL.

WASHINGTON, *January* 30, 1891.

MY DEAR MRS. WINDOM, —

. . . . . .

The national reputation of your dear husband increased at every step of his public career: always devoting his clear and vigorous intellect to the thorough mastery of the important affairs with which he was concerned; bearing himself with unaffected modesty, and such rectitude of purpose as, without wounding opponents, won the hearts of his friends.

To me Mr. Windom was much more than a political friend : he was a valued personal friend, and I have no words at command that will express my grief at his loss. . . .

Very sincerely yours,

JUSTIN S. MORRILL.

FROM SENATOR EVARTS.

DEAR MRS. WINDOM, —

. . . . . .

In the brief term of his service under President Garfield, Mr. Windom accomplished one of the most valuable and brilliant achievements in our financial history, by his conversion of the public debt at the unprecedented rate of interest of three per cent. No single act in that province of government ever gained greater credit for an administration, or renown for a financial minister. It was an unhappy vicissitude in our politics that retired Mr. Windom from the Senate on the 4th of March, 1883, after his reëntering that body upon the change of the Cabinet following the death of President Garfield. His position at the head of a great committee enabled Mr. Windom to show anew in the Senate and to the country the varied abilities and moral qualities which fitted him for the highest public service in great affairs.

In these last years and under the present administration, Mr. Windom has rendered conspicuous services to his country. Had he been permitted to prolong his conduct of the Treasury Department until the

incidents of politics might have brought it to a close, — in the general judgment of all men in public life, he would have made a greater and greater impression upon the country, and raised still higher the illustrious reputation which he had already reached. The manner of his death, so appalling in its incident, will hallow and perpetuate our countrymen's appreciation of this memorable life.

In Mr. Windom's character were combined not only the public qualities which fitted him for affairs, but certain personal traits which if present greatly assist, and if wanting seriously embarrass, the full power and efficiency of these greater qualities. Uniformity of firmness and good temper are by no means common; and if to these be added the grace of sympathetic courtesy, a statesman is with these well equipped for all diversities of conduct and of character with which his manifold duties bring him in contact. In this combination Mr. Windom was singularly fortunate. They were natural to him, and were cultivated upon principle as a part of that conduct of life which he marked out for himself and to which he adhered to the end.

The ever noticeable youthfulness of his features and manner could hardly be separable from youthfulness of heart and soul, and the touching and impressive record of his inner life, which his premature and lamented death now permit to become known, shows that in truth there was no such separation in this benevolent and beneficent nature.

This nation has been served from generation to generation by many great and good men, and in our assur-

ance of the permanence of our institutions and our public prosperity it will be so served from generation to generation in the future. Among them all, William Windom will always be a marked and admirable figure, and few will be more secure, in the ever-changing minds of men and in ever-changing times, from detraction or neglect.

I am, dear madam,

Sincerely your friend,

WILLIAM M. EVARTS.

FROM SENATOR SHERMAN.

MY DEAR MADAM, —

. . . . . .

There were some coincidences in the lives of Mr. Windom and myself, of which we have often spoken, which tended to bring us into friendly relations, aside from our communion in the same party. We were each born on the 10th day of May in the same State, pursued the same profession, and with marked similarity in our progress in public life; but he was born four years later than I, entered the House of Representatives four years later than I, and succeeded me as Secretary of the Treasury after my service of four years. We served together in the House, the Senate, and the Department during his whole political life. During all that time we were, in the strictest sense of the term, warm friends. No shadow ever passed between us until the hour of his death. I knew him, as well as one man can know another, in social life, in political struggles, in the rivalry of ambition; and I can say of him

that I never knew one more faithful to his convictions, more honorable in his intercourse, more sincere in his friendships, a truer friend and a better patriot, than William Windom.

In writing these few words my mind wanders back over many years of controversy, of earnest debate, of harsh and bitter warfare, when the gravest questions involving the fate of our country were pending, and in the midst of it all Mr. Windom was the calm, self-reliant, frank statesman, whose mind grasped every question presented and always settled upon the right side, or upon that which seemed to him most for the interest of his country. He was never impatient, irritable, or arrogant, but when he arrived at a conclusion he firmly maintained and acted upon his convictions. He was always manly and pleasant in his intercourse with his associates, and united a kindly manner with firmness and fidelity. I did not dream that in the chances of life I was to survive him, for in appearance he was the image of vigorous health and strength. He lived long enough, however, to fix his name and fame on the roll of American statesmen whose lives have been a blessing, and whose death a sorrow, to the whole country. To me he was always more than an associate. He was a cherished friend whose absence leaves a sense of loss which words cannot express and time alone can heal. Our consolation is, that while sharing the common fate of mortals, he leaves behind him a name and memory that will never die.

Very respectfully yours,

JOHN SHERMAN.

FROM SENATOR DAWES.

WASHINGTON, *January* 30.

MY DEAR MRS. WINDOM, —

. . . . . .

We extend to you the profound sympathy of the unbroken friendship of thirty years. . . . Mr. Windom entered Congress on the eve of the war, when every man like coin was counted at his true value. Although the youngest among us, he grew rapidly to a position of influence and wide participation in public affairs; and during all the years of unparalleled experience through which the nation has since passed, his has been a large and increasing share in the conduct of the government. He leaves the first rank of statesmen with an abiding record of stainless devotion to duty, and his death will be everywhere felt as a national calamity.

Sorrowingly and truly yours,

H. L. DAWES.

FROM SENATOR EDMUNDS.

DEAR MRS. WINDOM, — I hope you will not think me intrusive if I write you in your great sorrow and distress, to express my deep sympathy with you in your bereavement, and my own sense of loss as a personal friend of Mr. Windom. He was a member of the House of Representatives when I came to the Senate in 1866. Then, and especially afterwards, when he became a most valued and valuable member of the Senate, and also as Secretary of the Treasury in the administration of President Garfield, I knew him inti-

mately. With a brave and vigorous assertion of his convictions — the result of intense patriotism and a strong and trained intellect — he united the most gentle and courteous manner; and so he was always an honor to every place he filled, as well as a cultivated gentleman and a genial and sympathetic friend. I prize his memory greatly.

Very faithfully yours,

GEORGE F. EDMUNDS.

FROM SENATOR HOAR.

WORCESTER, *August* 20, 1891.

MY DEAR MRS. WINDOM, — I hope some memorial of your deceased husband may be given to the public beyond the expressions of affection and respect which were so abundant at the time of his death. It would seem quite desirable to preserve in permanent form some of his speeches and reports.

I have highly valued Mr. Windom, ever since I first knew him, as one of the very wisest and ablest of our public men. He was a very careful investigator of all the public questions of the time. He kept himself abreast of the best political thought of the country. But he was always practical, knowing well that the party to which he belonged and of which he was a trusted leader must, while it was looking into the future, also perform to the satisfaction of the people the duties of the present. His report on transcontinental transportation was the first great discussion of that important question. It is one of the very foremost of our state papers. If it were desired to preserve for

future use and study the best specimens of the political discussion of our day, this report of Mr. Windom and the powerful speech which he made just before he died would have no superiors and few equals in fitness for that purpose. I served with Mr. Windom in the Senate as well as in the House, and had frequent occasion to consult with him while he was Secretary of the Treasury, in General Garfield's time and in the time of President Harrison. He was always courteous and kindly, always desirous of obliging his associates in public life, and willing to defer reasonably to their wishes. This gave him an influence over them which made it easy for him to accomplish the results which he had at heart as a Senator and as an executive officer. I never heard from any of his associates in the Senate a word concerning Mr. Windom which did not imply the highest respect for his ability, and the kindliest feeling towards him personally. His loss, in the prime of life and in the full vigor of his clear intellect, to his country and to his political associates, is very great indeed. You and his children will have found such consolation for your irreparable loss as is possible in the respectful sympathy of your countrymen.

I am, with highest regard,

Faithfully yours,

GEORGE F. HOAR.

FROM SENATOR ALLISON.

WASHINGTON, *January* 30.

MY DEAR MRS. WINDOM, — I wish to express my deep sympathy with the great sorrow that has come to you and your family in the loss of Mr. Windom. It is also to me a great personal grief. My long association with him in both the Senate and House was always of the most cordial and friendly character, and I esteemed him as a most valued friend. The country will deplore the loss of a valuable and conscientious public servant in high place. I know how little this brief tribute can console you, but I cannot refrain from thus expressing the personal sorrow I feel at his death. . . .

Very sincerely yours,

W. B. ALLISON.

FROM EX-SENATOR DAVIS, OF WEST VIRGINIA.

BALTIMORE, *January* 30, 1891.

DEAR MRS. WINDOM, — The sudden death of your husband has come to me with a great shock, as if one of my own household were taken, and my heart goes out to you in sincerest sympathy.

. . . . . .

Mr. Windom's life was without a stain, a model for all men, and the world is better for his having lived in it. He was thoroughly conscientious in every work he undertook, and industrious to a fault. While earnest and forcible in his advocacy of any measure he deemed right, he was courteous and attentive to an opponent and willing to give proper weight to adverse views.

I deem myself most fortunate to have served with him in the United States Senate, and particularly remember with pleasure our joint service for many years on the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Transportation Routes to the Seaboard. Mr. Windom's exhaustive report of the findings and recommendations of that Committee is one of the earliest publications on that subject, and is a valuable contribution to the history of the country to which constant reference is now made.

His long service to the country in both branches of Congress and as Secretary of the Treasury was distinguished by able advocacy and earnest, faithful application. Although a consistent Republican, he never allowed the partisan to overshadow the statesman and the patriot. His loss to the country is great; to you and your family it is irreparable. . . .

Sincerely your friend,

H. G. Davis.

FROM EX-GOVERNOR McGILL, OF MINNESOTA.

Mrs. William Windom:

My dear Madam, — The people of Minnesota are profoundly impressed by the sudden death of your noble husband, and most sincerely sympathize with you in your great sorrow. For thirty years his has been an honored name throughout our State, and at the time of his death he had risen to such eminence as excited the pride and admiration of all, without regard to political party affiliations. As a citizen, neighbor, friend, he was a most lovable man. Indeed, it was the charm of

his private character — his genial nature and uncompromising loyalty — which gave him so many and such stanch friends.

As a public man, while modest and unassuming, he rose grandly when occasion required, always equal to the emergency confronting him. Able, self-poised, reliant, he was a statesman of rare ability and judgment. As Secretary of the Treasury he made a name that has shed lustre not alone on his own State, but on the entire nation, — a name that will be known and honored as long as the subject of finance is a study among men.

With great respect, I am sincerely your friend,

C. R. McGill.

FROM GENERAL TICHENOR, LATE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

New York, *January* 30, 1891.

Dear Mrs. Windom, —

. . . . . .

To you who shared so fully his life, I need scarcely say that Mr. Windom was my most beloved and valued friend. . . . Our relations were such as enabled me to study and to judge him fully and fairly, and in the light of that experience I can say that he possessed, more nearly than any man I ever knew, *all* the qualities which go to make up a perfect manhood. Amiable to a rare degree, he was nevertheless firm as a rock in his adherence to principle.

Singularly devoted to his friends and ever thoughtful of their interests, he neither wasted his time nor

embittered his genial nature by resentful thoughts of his enemies.

He was great and good and true in all the relations of life, — a faithful and devoted husband, a loving and devoted father, a steadfast and unselfish friend, a loyal and public-spirited citizen, a true patriot, an illustrious statesman, a pure man, and a devout Christian.

To have enjoyed his friendship and confidence will ever be one of the chief joys of my life. To have been the wife and offspring of such a man is an imperishable honor, as to lose him is an immeasurable sorrow. . . .

Sincerely yours,

GEORGE C. TICHENOR.

FROM THE REV. DR. RANKIN.

WASHINGTON, *January* 30, 1891.

MY DEAR MRS. WINDOM, — I have this moment heard of the sudden translation to our "Father's house" of your great, good, and honored husband. I feel that the country has met with a loss irreparable, especially at this time, when his counsels are so much needed. He died at his post, as much as does a leader in battle.

Of all the public men whom I have known, he has been to me a model man, and I have loved him as a brother.

I can never forget the better than regal, the paternal presence with which, standing by your side, he received last New Year's congratulations. Thus shall I always remember him, — a great-presenced, magnifi-

cent man, beaming glances of recognition and beneficence on all whom he greeted; never losing his serene self-composure, and yet never thinking of himself, but always seeming happiest, as he appeared greatest, when he served.

. . . . . .

Be assured that you have my most sincere sympathy and prayers.

Very truly yours,

J. E. RANKIN.

FROM A. J. DREXEL.

MY DEAR MADAM, —. . . I had a very great esteem for Mr. Windom. He was a man of the highest character and a true statesman, never sacrificing his principles for expediency. His efforts in favor of honest money were of the greatest value to the country during the critical period of the past year, and his dying words will be always remembered and held out as a warning against any departure from honesty in the maintenance of a sound currency.

His gentle, unassuming manners endeared him to all who came into intercourse with him, and I feel his death as a personal loss. . . .

I am, dear Madam,

Faithfully yours,

A. J. DREXEL.

FROM JUDGE SHELLABARGER.

WASHINGTON, *January* 30, 1891.

DEAR MRS. WINDOM, — In the midst of the universal grief which pervades our entire country at the death of your distinguished husband, I cannot refrain from an expression of sincere sympathy for you and your dear family in your most profound sorrow.

My association with Mr. Windom in Congress, and what the whole country has since seen of him, have made me regard him as really one of the most valuable men of the Republic, — a man of no disguises, no shams, no acting, but steadily and throughout the long years the enlightened, firm, trained, and most valuable officer, statesman and citizen.

The last act of his life is indeed a fitting crown for a great and good life.

I know, dear Mrs. Windom, that these letters of condolence are poor things, though well meant. But in your dear departed husband's life you have a consolation beyond all price. . . .

Most sincerely yours,

SAMUEL SHELLABARGER.

FROM MAYOR MANNING (SON OF THE LATE SECRETARY MANNING).

ALBANY, N. Y., *January* 31, 1891.

DEAR MADAM, — Your bereavement impels me to extend to you and your family my tenderest sympathy. The deep impression which the death of Secretary Windom has made upon the country is not alone the

result of the suddenness of the summons, but is a tribute to those characteristics of Mr. Windom which have caused the people, without reference to party lines, to regard him as a man of broad statesmanship, unselfish public spirit, and unimpeachable personal integrity.

Between my father and Mr. Windom existed a strong personal friendship. I have followed with increasing interest the public career of Secretary Windom, and have found that my father's high estimate of his ability and general grasp of affairs was indeed well founded.

. . . . . .

Sincerely yours,

JAMES H. MANNING.

Telegrams to Mrs. Windom

St. Paul, *January* 30.

As chief executive of the State that Secretary Windom has so ably represented and so greatly honored, I beg to express the intense grief felt by our entire people, irrespective of party, at his untimely death.

William R. Merriam.

Fremont, Ohio, *January* 30.

You are assured of the deepest sympathy of myself and my family. Your noble husband was beloved and admired by us all. The whole people mourn with you.

Rutherford B. Hayes.

Winona, Minn., *January* 30.

The membership of this your church home, as we meet to-night, sympathize with you in this hour of your great sorrow, and earnestly pray that the Everlasting Arms may be your refuge and support.

L. L. West, *Pastor.*

London, *January* 30.

Accept our sincere sympathy.

Lincoln.

HARRISBURG, *January* 30.

Permit me to express my heartfelt sympathy for you in this hour of deep affliction which has come so suddenly upon you. Pennsylvania joins in the great sorrow which all must feel.

ROBERT E. PATTISON.

PHILADELPHIA, *January* 30.

We send our heartfelt sympathy, and pray that you may be given strength to endure this great affliction.

WAYNE MCVEAGH.

NEW YORK, *January* 30.

Accept our sympathy in your great loss. Those who knew your husband best loved him most.

THOMAS L. JAMES.

DETROIT, MICH., *January* 30.

Accept our profound sympathy in this dark hour of deepest sorrow.

R. A. ALGER.

NEW YORK, *January* 30.

The members of the New York Mercantile Exchange tender their sincere sympathies to the family of the honored citizen and statesman, William Windom.

We join with the entire nation in sorrow for the nation's loss.

JAMES H. SNYDER, *President.*

London, *January* 31.

On behalf of a large gathering of Americans assembled here, I am requested to communicate to you their heartfelt sympathy in your most painful bereavement.

C. A. Gillig, *Secretary.*

Telegrams to the Department of State

WASHINGTON, *January* 31, 1891.

SIR, — I have the honor to inform you that I have received a telegram from the Marquis of Salisbury in which I am directed to express to you the great and general regret with which the news of Mr. Secretary Windom's distressingly sudden death has been received in the United Kingdom.

I have the honor to be, with the highest consideration, sir,

Your most obedient servant,

JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

The Hon. JAMES G. BLAINE, Secretary of State.

IMPERIAL GERMAN LEGATION, WASHINGTON,
January 31, 1891.

SIR, — I have received a telegram from the Baron Marshall, the Secretary of State of the German Empire, by which I am directed to express to you and the government of the United States, in behalf of the German government, its deep sympathy with the great loss which has fallen upon your country by the death of the

Secretary of the Treasury, the Honorable William Windom.

I have the honor, sir, to renew to you the assurance of my highest consideration.

ARCO.

The Hon. JAMES G. BLAINE, Secretary of State.

ROYAL LEGATION OF ITALY, WASHINGTON,
January 31, 1891.

MR. SECRETARY OF STATE, — The government of the King, having been informed of the death of the Honorable William Windom, has instructed me to convey to your Excellency the expression of its condolence in the sad loss which the United States government and the country at large have just sustained in the person of the Secretary of the Treasury.

In performing this duty without delay, I have the honor to beg you, Mr. Secretary of State, to be pleased to bring the foregoing to the notice of the President, and to add the assurance of my own warm sympathy in this national grief.

Be pleased to accept, Mr. Secretary of State, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

FAVA.

The Hon. JAMES G. BLAINE, Secretary of State.

William Windom

In "The New York Independent" of February 12, 1891, appeared the following article from the pen of General A. B. Nettleton, then Acting Secretary of the Treasury: —

The manner and place of Secretary Windom's death caused the announcement of his departure to startle the country like the tidings of a great tragedy. It has probably never happened to any other public man to close his life through natural causes under circumstances so striking and impressive. The guest of honor at a notable gathering of distinguished men in the nation's metropolis, and appointed to be the first and principal speaker of the occasion, he appears before his listeners apparently a man of robust health, and certainly in the prime of his mental forces, delivers in full tone and strength to its close one of the ablest speeches of the present decade, and, while the echoes of the tumultuous applause which greeted his peroration had scarcely died out of the air, he passes in an instant, without a word, and probably without a pang, from the brilliant banquet hall to the realm of silence.

It would be difficult to imagine any element which

would have added to the dramatic solemnity of the event. It was such a dying in harness as any healthy-minded man might well covet; but the shock produced upon the public mind has nothing in it to be desired.

While the peculiar accessories of his death tended to create a profound impression and to call forth a widespread regret coupled with something akin to intense compassion, yet the universal and spontaneous manifestation of sorrow and affection, which has seldom been equaled in the case of any citizen since the founding of the Republic, means more than this. These expressions of genuine grief have not been limited to any section, party, or creed, and they testify to something deeper than a passing interest in the sudden decease of a high official. They show beyond question that William Windom, the incorruptible and intrepid public servant and the unassuming and gentle-hearted Christian citizen, had a most unusual hold upon the popular regard. And those who knew him best are least surprised at the signs of general sorrow. A rarer spirit, a more valuable life, seldom passes.

There is nothing sensational or spectacular in the simple record of the occupancy of high official station during nearly all the years of Mr. Windom's mature life; but those years of service to the country, in Congress and Cabinet, were filled with an amount and kind of activity and work that resulted in the building of a character and the making of a record, which, in my judgment, must place his name among the foremost score of America's public men. The noble result is due, not to genius or brilliancy (for he possessed

neither), but to a combination and balance of qualities which are infinitely better than genius, and without which statesmanship is impossible.

First among the traits which rendered this man's life enduringly valuable, was *a magnificent common sense*, which, throughout his entire career, never deserted him, and which never permitted him to do a rash or ill-advised thing.

His modesty withheld him from undertaking that for which he was not equipped, but his unassuming courage and uniform loyalty to the right saved him from all sense of timidity in the presence of a recognized responsibility. His industry and thoroughness, whenever and wherever any work required to be done, were so conspicuous and exceptional as to attract the attention and call forth the admiration of all who were associated with him. His unflagging diligence coupled with his tremendous power of work were the chief factors in his remarkable usefulness and success; but in these later years, when the vital energies had passed their meridian and a hereditary weakness of the heart began to suggest sharp limitations upon continuous effort, his lifelong habit of hard work betrayed him into excesses in this direction which hastened the catastrophe.

The most conspicuous chapters in the record of Mr. Windom's life of eminent service, chapters which reach the dignity of positive and constructive statesmanship, may be thus briefly catalogued : —

His steady and unflinching advocacy of a restored Union by means of successful war throughout four

years of the Rebellion; his early championship of emancipation as a just and logical corollary of defeated secession; his leading part in holding the country to the righteous resolution that the measures of reconstruction following the war should preserve the fruits of the nation's sacrifice; his exhaustive investigations and masterly report as Chairman of the Committee on Transportation Routes to the Seaboard, an investigation and report which have done a most beneficent work in reforming and developing the interior commerce of the country; his superb financial *coup* as Secretary of the Treasury in 1881, in refunding a large section of the national debt at practically no cost to the government under difficulties which seemed to others insuperable, and with a saving to the people of many millions in interest payments; his leading and sensible part in 1887 and subsequently in the much needed movement to check the aggressions of the saloon interest, which threatened to debauch the political life of the nation; his timely, sagacious, and courageous use of the treasury resources during the closing months of 1890 to restore the tottering confidence of the country, and avert impending panic which threatened to result in a contagion of bankruptcy reaching from ocean to ocean; and, finally, his magnificent stand during the closing days and the dying speech of his life in favor of a sound and adequate currency for the nation, consisting of and based upon both gold and silver, including the ultimate and entire restoration of silver to its rightful place as soon as this can be accomplished within the lines of safety.

But the man William Windom was greater than the Legislator and Finance Minister whom a nation mourns. His pure and reverent life, in the midst of masculine activities and political struggle, is an invaluable protest against the gospel of pessimism which blights this generation, — an object-lesson to the young which cannot be too widely studied. He was a partisan and yet a patriot; he regarded political organizations as instruments for promoting good government, and not as fetiches to be worshiped; he fought his battles with virile energy, yet harbored no resentments; he was as sweet-spirited as a woman, yet none ever suspected him of effeminacy; through nearly thirty years of strenuous public life, mainly in stormy and corrupting times, he carried a stainless name, and, dying, left no enemy who was not also the enemy of his country's welfare.

The Government Loan Negotiation of 1881

BY A. B. NETTLETON

During the session of Congress which ended March 3, 1881, a bill styled the Funding Act of 1881, providing for the five and six per cent. bonds which would mature within the year, passed both houses after extended debate, but was returned by the President without his signature, in consequence of his objection to section 5, which prohibited national banks from depositing as security for circulation and public deposits, any bonds except those authorized to be issued under the said Funding Act of 1881. The bill subsequently failed of obtaining the two thirds vote necessary to pass it over the President's veto, and the incoming administration of President Garfield was, therefore, confronted with the alternative of calling an extra session of Congress or providing some means of carrying along the maturing loans until provision therefor should be made at the succeeding regular session. The maturing bonds outstanding April 1, 1881, subject to the option of the government, consisted of $196,378,600 six per cent. bonds and $439,811,250 five per cents., a total of $636,189,850 redeemable on or before July 1, 1881.

For three several reasons it was very important that the failure of Congress to make provision for this great volume of maturing bonds should not result in their remaining outstanding at the old rate of interest: —

First, it would have been a cumbrous, difficult, and expensive task to continue paying interest on scores of millions of coupon bonds from which all coupons had been removed.

Second, it would have been a distinct and serious injury to the public credit if the government had permitted more than six hundred millions of dollars of its debt to pass the maturity date without protection, and then continue to draw rates of interest which had by that time become exorbitant for a nation in the known financial condition of the United States.

Third, the actual money loss involved in continuing to pay five and six per cent. per annum on such an amount of debt, as compared with the three and a half per cent. per annum at which Secretary Windom believed it should be floated, would be at the rate of more than eleven million dollars per annum.

With this threefold stimulus, the Secretary devoted himself to the task of devising some method which, without involving a violation of law, should virtually take the place of that legislation which Congress had failed to enact.

After careful study of the situation, he matured and put in execution a plan whereby the bulk of the maturing bonds were continued at the pleasure of the government to bear interest at the rate of three and a half per cent. per annum, and the residue redeemed at maturity.

This plan was executed as follows: On April 11, 1881, the Secretary of the Treasury issued a circular (No. 40) calling for absolute redemption on July 1, 1881, the small loan issued under the Act of March 2, 1861 (Oregon War Debt, $688,200); and on the same day circular No. 42, calling for payment also on July 1, 1881, the two loans of July 17 and August 5, 1861, and March 3, 1863: but to the holders of the bonds of the two latter loans permission was given for the continuance of the bonds at three and a half per cent. during the pleasure of the government, if presented at the Treasury Department for that purpose on or before May 10, 1881. The time for presenting the bonds was subsequently extended to May 20, 1881; and for the convenience of foreign holders, as well as to prevent a probable drain of coin from this country, an agency was established in London for the exchange of bonds. Under this latter circular six per cent. bonds amounting to $178,055,150 were continued, leaving to be paid, from the surplus revenues, bonds amounting only to $17,635,250. As soon as the disposal of the six per cent. bonds was practically assured, the department on May 12, 1881, published circular No. 52, calling for redemption, August 12, 1881, the coupon bonds of the five per cent. loan of July 14, 1870, and January 20, 1871, with the privilege of continuance at three and a half per cent.; and at the same time offering to receive the registered bonds of that loan for continuance in like manner to an amount not exceeding $250,000,000. The remainder of the loan it was the intention to reserve for absolute redemption, but in con-

sequence of the rapidity with which the bonds were presented for continuance, as many as 30,000,000 being presented in a single day, it was found to be impracticable, without injustice to many holders, to strictly maintain the limit of $250,000,000; and the amount of registered five per cent. bonds continued at the lower rate was therefore somewhat in excess of the limit.

The amount of registered and coupon bonds continued under these two circulars of April 11 and May 12, 1881, was as follows: —

	Registered.	Coupon.	Total.
July and Aug., '61 (6%)	103,625,700	23,971,500	127,597,200
March 3, 1863 (6%)	43,111,000	7,346,950	50,457,950
July 14, 1870, and Jan. 20, 1871 (5%)	293,010,400	108,494,500	401,504,900
	$439,747,100	$139,812,950	$579,560,050

The amount of five per cent. bonds reserved for payment from the surplus revenues was $38,306,350, and the amount of six per cents. so reserved, as stated before, was $17,635,250, making the total amount to be paid from the surplus $55,941,600.

For this achievement in governmental finance there was no precedent, and the announcement of the Secretary's purpose was met with almost universal incredulity. The total cost of the process of thus converting government loans aggregating more than $600,000,000 bearing five and six per cent. interest, into a uniform three and a half per cent. loan running at the pleasure of the government, was less than $2,000, and no money whatever was taken even temporarily from the chan-

nels of business in America or Europe. The general estimate placed upon the accomplishment of the undertaking, after it had become history, is sufficiently indicated by the accompanying extracts from current expressions by leading journals. The *New York Tribune* summed up by saying, "This operation will rank as the greatest and most creditable financial triumph in history."

The *Philadelphia Press* said: —

"Secretary Windom deserves unstinted praise for the initial act of his administration of the national finances. He has substantially completed the refunding of $195,000,000 six per cent. bonds without any refunding act, without the intervention of banks or syndicates, without paying commissions or employing agents, and without disturbing the business of the country in the smallest degree. So quietly and cleverly has his brilliant financial conception been carried into effect that the country scarcely noted anything concerning it except the publication of his plan and the announcement of its consummation. So complete has been Mr. Windom's success that even his critics are silent."

The *Boston Journal* remarked that: —

"At any other time and in any other country, an administration which should devise and carry into execution so important and so remarkable a financial project as that which Mr. Windom has undertaken and completed during the past two months would command the attention and admiration of the financial world."

The *Chicago Tribune* concluded an article on the success of these refunding operations by saying: —

"Mr. Windom will retire from the Cabinet after only six months' service with a reputation which will place his name along with those of Hamilton, Gallatin, Chase, and Sherman in the history of American finance."

The *New York Commercial Advertiser* said: —

"Mr. Windom has good reason to be proud of the success that has attended his measure. His policy had been regarded with suspicion, and many financiers have predicted its failure, but it has worked so smoothly and successfully that the public has not seemingly been aware that anything like an experiment was in progress."

The *Daily Indicator* (New York) criticised Mr. Windom's plan, and predicted its failure; but the same financial paper subsequently admitted its success, in the following words: —

"It cannot be denied that the most complete success has crowned the efforts of Secretary Windom to perform the work which should have been done by Congress before its adjournment in refunding that portion of the national debt maturing or becoming redeemable during the present summer. That Congress did not complete its refunding schemes there is every reason to be thankful, as in all probability it would not have done nearly so well for the country has Secretary Windom has done."

The *London Economist*, the highest financial authority in Great Britain, said: —

"Secretary Windom is to be complimented upon the ingenuity of his scheme, and the judgment he has shown in putting it into execution."

The Public, a leading financial paper of New York, said : —

"The success of Senator Windom's plan cannot be called astonishing, and yet no triumph so remarkable has ever been achieved before in the finances of this or any other nation. The entire simplicity of Mr. Windom's plan and its perfect adaptation of means to ends have made results which would have been called incredible two months ago, and which are without a parallel in the world's financial history, appear perfectly natural and easy of belief. For nine days the government borrowed over $30,000,000 a day without withdrawing as much as a single dime from the banks or the loan market, and yet this unprecedented feat does not excite wonder."

The *Buffalo Express* affirmed that : —

"The recent feat of Secretary Windom in refunding the six per cents. eclipses not only everything heretofore done by our own treasury, but everything recorded in the financial history of the world."

The *Springfield Republican*, after commenting on Mr. Windom's success in refunding, adds : —

"If this had happened in France, the world would have resounded with the splendor of French financiering."

Editorial Comments

THE following extracts from editorial comments by representative journals, upon the character and career of Mr. Windom, serve to indicate the unanimity of favorable sentiment on the part of the press of the whole country, without regard to political preferences. The letters already given, and these expressions, which might be indefinitely multiplied here, forcibly illustrate the fact that in Mr. Windom's life and work there was that which was above and beyond the zone of partisan interests, and which commanded the esteem and admiration of the wisest and best of his countrymen of every party name: —

New York Tribune.

January 30, 1891.

. . . Mr. Windom was a man of marked ability and the highest character. His administration has been wise and conservative. His use of the treasury surplus in the purchase of bonds in time of monetary stringency was an act of rare wisdom. His last annual report was a document showing profound knowledge, and the completest familiarity with all the intricate questions involved in our national finances.

As Senator he made a remarkable reputation as a student of the problem of transportation when he was called to administer the treasury. In a brief career of but few months as Secretary of the Treasury under President Garfield, he achieved a triumph which no other finance minister of any nation has ever achieved, in the refunding operations of 1881, and it was so simple and yet so bold and original that it marked him at once as a man of extraordinary gifts. The fall of 1881 tested to the utmost his ability to administer the Treasury Department wisely with reference to the needs of a great commercial nation, and thus, although his experience had been short, and he had been only a little time in high administrative office, his selection by President Harrison was welcomed by the business community as a guaranty that the interests of the nation would be wisely and courageously guarded. How great the resources he brought to the relief of business, in times of peril last fall and winter, the business men and bankers of New York well know, and they are aware that few public men have equaled him in quick understanding, fertility of device, or resolute use of opportunities for the public good. . . .

New York Times.

. . . Mr. Windom united more claims to the confidence of the party and the country as a whole than almost any one else. Our readers are aware that with some of the ideas which he has most earnestly supported we have found it impossible to agree. But in his administration of the treasury at both times that he has

been called to that high office, we have been glad to recognize his sincere purpose to preserve to the utmost of his ability the soundness of the financial system of the government, to keep the honor of the nation free from stain, and the full performance of its promises free from all doubt. . . .

New York World.

January 30, 1891.

. . . Mr. Windom had evinced a remarkable talent for financial administration, and had deserved the thanks of the community for his efforts and achievements, not only in that direction, but also in many other lines of political activity. . . .

New York Herald.

January 31, 1891.

. . . The skill which Mr. Windom displayed in extricating the Garfield administration from the necessity of calling an extra session of Congress, to provide for a maturing issue of government bonds, excited the admiration of financiers everywhere. It was characteristically simple and effective. . . . The sharp fall in the price of silver in London yesterday is an involuntary tribute to the force and cogency of the arguments he presented a few minutes before his death against an unlimited coinage of silver at this time. No man's reputation is quite safe in Wall Street, and it is a high compliment to the probity of Mr. Windom that in financial circles yesterday one heard on every hand the statement that his office had never been smirched

with a suspicion that it was used in any way for speculative or personal profit. . . .

New York Evening Mail and Express.

January 30, 1891.

. . . William Windom's fame is secure. It is spotless. It is based on great achievements and on a career full of patriotic endeavor. . . . The national emblem, flying at half-mast from the flag-poles of all our great business houses along Broadway and other thoroughfares to-day, shows the universal esteem and respect in which the late Secretary Windom was held by the mercantile community. . . .

Philadelphia Press.

January 31, 1891.

. . . As chairman of the remarkable Joint Committee on Transportation to the Seaboard, Mr. Windom gathered facts and laid down principles which have profoundly affected the construction of public works and legislation on continental traffic. Twenty years ago, when Mr. Windom took up this work, neither the Mississippi jetties nor the Sault Canal had been built, and but one Pacific and three trunk lines were in existence. The relation between land and water routes was wholly misunderstood, and the need of the latter generally denied. His labors transformed the opinion of that small class which studies these questions, and gradually leavened public opinion. The steady approach, apparent on all sides, toward an organized system of railroads and waterways — the former built by private capital

and under Federal supervision, and the latter improved by Federal capital but left free as to rates — is in large measure due to Mr. Windom's efforts. Yet these services are to-day scarcely remembered. Twice Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Windom's services in this most important post stand alone in the public eye. In his brief term he refunded $700,000,000 of public debt, for whose payment he had been left without resources, with a skill which attracted attention the world over. Imitated but not equaled by Mr. Goschen last year in refunding consols, Mr. Windom's great feat is one to be remembered as long as national finance is discussed by financiers and national debts remain. . . . Recalled to the head of the Treasury Department by President Harrison, he has had no one great task for whose discharge luck is often as valuable as genius; but he had, instead, to deal with one of the great panics of the century. The skill with which during the past year, without shock or break, he added $98,000,000 to the currency in circulation, and his success in preventing a dangerous silver inflation, is little likely to be fully appreciated until the history of his administration is written with as little partisan feeling as attends an estimate of the career of Hamilton or of Gallatin. . . .

Philadelphia Public Ledger.

January 31, 1891.

. . . It is a rare thing to find a high official so supremely capable, so much of a controlling intellectual force, as William Windom was, who at the same time

had so strong a hold upon the affectionate goodwill of other men of all degrees and in all places as he had. It was this which gave such earnestness and visible sincerity to the sorrow that was everywhere manifest yesterday so soon as the story of his death became known. . . .

Philadelphia Inquirer.

January 30, 1891.

. . . Mr. Windom's record was clean, his private character spotless and without reproach, his political course straight and consistent. He never wavered in his duty to his constituents or in allegiance to his party. His judgment was embalmed in the acts which form the proudest monuments of his political rule.

Philadelphia Evening Telegraph.

January 30, 1891.

. . . Mr. Windom was peculiarly well suited to encounter the difficulties of a peculiar situation, and he succeeded in dealing with these difficulties in a manner as honorable and creditable to himself as advantageous to the people; and they will learn more and more to appreciate his services and to respect his memory. How greatly the community is indebted to his personal power may be better understood by reflecting what appalling consequence might have ensued had his death occurred two months ago. It would almost certainly have precipitated an excitement and a financial revulsion involving incalculable disasters. He alone stood between the country and a panic of ruinous proportions; and he stood like a rock, commanding the con-

fidence of all men. His personal integrity, his successful experience, sound judgment, and financial sagacity inspired implicit trust, and in that trust was found a refuge and safe reliance during a crisis that threatened widespread destruction. . . .

Philadelphia Record.

. . . This is a time for sympathy, rather than eulogy; yet it is but simple justice to say that no man who has been honored with high public station more adorned his office, or illustrated in a higher degree the virtues that belong to the patriot and the statesman, than did William Windom.

Philadelphia Evening Herald.

January 31, 1891.

. . . The late Secretary was a wise and conservative statesman. He served his country well, and his management of the treasury has been marked with skill and discretion.

Philadelphia Evening Star.

January 31, 1891.

. . . Some of the commendations of departed men of distinguished public or private condition are insincere, on the principle that nothing but good should be spoken of the dead; and when such insincerity displays itself, it is always understood and appreciated at its true value. But nothing of that kind applies in the case of the dead Secretary of the Treasury. The eulogies upon his life and character have had their origin in the honest desire to pay honor to departed worth.

Pittsburg Leader.

January 30, 1891.

. . . It is not necessary to assert the principle of *De mortuis nil nisi bonum* in the case of Mr. Windom. Few men of eminence escape the tongue of calumny, but the late Secretary of the Treasury belonged to that few, and it is a noteworthy fact that, throughout his long tenure of office, he enjoyed almost entire immunity from the aggressions usually incident to political activity in this country. No further testimony than this is needed to establish the fact that William Windom was a man of exceptional integrity and purity of life. Add to this that he was a publicist for the sake of the public, a partisan without venom, and a statesman without charlatanry, and an aggregate merit is presented not often paralleled in the annals of modern American statesmanship. Our nation is not ungrateful, and it may be said, therefore, with all sincerity, that the memory of this great and useful citizen will find an enduring monument in the regard of the American people.

The Pittsburg Press.

January 30, 1891.

. . . Carrying on the monetary business of the country in a quiet, unassuming way, Secretary Windom kept his ledger balanced, and did all for the country that clear money managing could do.

Boston Daily Advertiser.

January 31, 1891.

. . . Whatever may have been individual opinions of the soundness of Secretary Windom's financial views, no

one will now deny him an immensely comprehensive grasp on the monetary problems to which he from time to time gave his attention, and an energy in following his self-outlined courses which was indefatigable. In the broad sense of the word, a great financier is gone, and such will be the verdict of after-times.

Boston Journal.

January 30, 1891.

. . . Mr. Windom was a conspicuous member of the group of strong men that Ohio has given to the public service and the Republican party. He united in a marked degree in his personality the buoyancy and vigor of the West and the solid conservatism of the East. His unusual symmetry of character made him an influential figure in the national House of Representatives and afterward in the Senate, and caused his appointment to be universally applauded when he was selected for the important duty of Secretary of the Treasury, first in President Garfield's Cabinet, and then in the Cabinet of President Harrison. Unquestionably Mr. Windom has been one of the main pillars of the present administration, and he will be greatly missed. His conduct through the difficulties which even now have not ceased to overshadow the country has been such as to win for him the profound esteem of his fellow-citizens. Even those who have had to disagree with him on certain features of his recommendations have cheerfully recognized his ability and integrity and his deep sense of his responsibilities. One of the chief circumstances that have enabled us to come thus far almost

unscathed among the perils that have lately environed us has been the knowledge that an experienced, capable, and trustworthy hand was on the helm of the great Treasury Department. . . .

Boston Transcript.

January 30, 1891.

. . . Even those who have criticised were always willing to admit Mr. Windom's integrity of intentions, and vast knowledge of the details of finance.

It should also be remembered, to the credit of Mr. Windom, that he was an unswerving friend of civil service reform, and notably so in the days when it was struggling for a hearing.

Boston Pilot.

January 7, 1891.

. . . Secretary Windom was justly honored, and is deeply mourned as a brave, wise, honest, patriotic citizen. . . .

Boston Daily Traveler.

January 30, 1891.

. . . His performance of the delicate and responsible duties of his great office, during the perilous crises through which the country has been recently passing, has been such as to win for him the admiration of business men in all sections of the country, without distinction of party.

Boston Courier.

February 1, 1891.

. . . Such an ending of a life is certainly one to be envied, when one departs in the midst of honors, full of dignity, and at the very moment when one has proved his loyalty to the course of honesty and public well-being.

Boston Herald.

January 31, 1891.

. . . Though we have dissented from Mr. Windom's views, we have never questioned his sincerity and patriotic purpose in voicing them.

Chicago Tribune.

. . . Secretary Windom neither yielded to the money kings of the East, nor to the expansionists of the West. His financial policy was wise, prudent, and safe; and in his death the people of the United States will suffer a loss that cannot easily be repaired. . . .

Chicago Inter Ocean.

February 1, 1891.

. . . William Windom was one of the many who, without any educational advantages beyond the easy reach of all save the boys who must needs help support the family, achieved the highest success within the rational ambition of an American citizen. . . . No special gift was his, but whatever fell to his lot to do he did well, and was never found wanting, intellectually or morally. He was progressive, rather than aggressive; able, rather than brilliant; achieving success by fairly deserving it. . . .

The Evening Star (Washington).

January 30, 1891.

The sudden death of Secretary Windom startles the country. Dying just after he had delivered before the New York Board of Trade a speech of great power on the financial question, it may be said that he fell in the discharge of his duties and died in harness. The blow to the administration is a blow which falls on the American people. In the late Secretary of the Treasury the republic had one of the coolest, wisest, and strongest counselors and one of the soundest administrators of financial policy ever in its service. Twice at the head of the treasury, he had displayed signal force in moments of peril, as well as broad sagacity in the general outlines. Full of resources gathered in a long and active career in both houses, Mr. Windom came to President Garfield's Cabinet prepared for the task imposed upon him. When in a few months the executive's untimely death interposed, he had demonstrated his capacity for directing the nation's fiscal affairs. When, therefore, after an interregnum in official duty, Mr. Windom was appointed by President Harrison to be Secretary of the Treasury, there was general confidence that the portfolio had been well bestowed. This confidence was not misplaced. In the crisis raised by English over-speculation and its reaction on Wall Street, following a strained condition in this country due to excessive railway building, the Secretary's grasp of the situation seemed perfect, and the prompt, decisive, although conservative measures

adopted assisted very greatly to reduce the strain, restore confidence, and secure a return to normal conditions. If there were needed a monument to the memory of the dead Secretary, the history of that crisis would alone be sufficient. But his fame will rest, not on any one act or series of acts in official life, but on the general powers of his mind and the aggregation of his services. Happy in the moment of exit as in his conduct on the stage of public affairs, he fell in the full light of public approbation, with the public applause of his course ringing in his ears.

Washington Post.

January 30, 1891.

. . . Mr. Windom's reappointment to the position of Secretary of the Treasury by Mr. Harrison was generally regarded with favor. He had previously attracted national attention by his refunding policy, and conservative treatment of financial questions. Under the present administration he has shown that the confidence reposed in him was not misplaced, and he will rank with the best of the Secretaries who have ever been at the head of the treasury. In private life he was a good citizen, and both his public and private records are without reproach.

Troy (N. Y.) Daily Times.

. . . A model American statesman, a patriot through and through, a minister of finance broad, strong, logical, and successful, was Mr. Windom, to be classed among the most illustrious of the great men who have held

the high Cabinet position he filled with ability second to none, and honor to his memory imperishable.

He brought to every task his full energy, and all the knowledge it was possible to obtain. Whatever problem presented itself, he grappled with it earnestly, and was not content until he had mastered it. Thus he wrung success from situations which to many another would have yielded only failure. Of tried ability, of unquestioned integrity, he lived a life of great activity and usefulness, and died while his last utterances upon the vital questions of the hour had not ceased to echo in the ears of his listeners. For distinguished public services he was loved and honored while living. Dead, he is deeply and sincerely mourned because the nation has lost one of its best and most valued citizens, because the people have lost a steadfast friend.

Brooklyn Daily Times.

January 30, 1891.

. . . There are other men in public life as able as Mr. Windom, though few as experienced. But there is not one who can command to an equal degree the confidence of both the schools of political economy which are now contending over the settlement of the silver problem.

Albany Evening Journal.

January 30, 1891.

. . . William Windom was a financier worthy to rank with Hamilton, Gallatin, and Chase, although no great crisis such as made the fame of those historic names may hand his down to posterity. And yet in equip-

ment, genius, and experience he was the peer of all his predecessors. In breadth of vision, originality of conception, and power to execute, he made his mark on the financial policy of the United States. . . .

Albany Daily Press.

January 31, 1891.

. . . The appallingly sudden death of Secretary Windom removes a man in whom the whole nation, irrespective of party or section, reposed a confidence which was the natural creation of his sound judgment, eminent ability, and superb integrity. He was the ideal steward, competent to perform the duties of his exalted trust, a statesman of the highest order, without being a politician in the common sense, a patriot, not a partisan — a good and faithful servant of the republic. . . .

The Christian Union (*N. Y.*).

February 5, 1891.

. . . Fortunately, this great loss to the administration has taken place after the Secretary had passed through a financial crisis, in common with the country, and had wielded his vast power with signal wisdom. On his judgment more than on that of any other person did the financial world here depend for the avoidance of a great calamity, and he was found equal to the situation. We may be thankful indeed that so large a man in capacity filled the position of Secretary of the Treasury in such a critical emergency. He made no mistakes, and his resources seemed exhaustless. He dies stainless in reputation, and deeply respected by all parties and classes of men. . . .

New York Evangelist.

February 5, 1891.

. . . But not only was Mr. Windom a man of so much natural sweetness, he was a man of great force of character, uniting ability with energy, clearness of mind with strength of will. With no early advantages, except such as any country boy might have, he had not reached the age of manhood before he began to feel conscious of a man's strength and power, which imposed upon him the duty to do a man's work in the world. He did not enter the army, yet no soldier ever fought the battle of life more bravely. He belonged to the noble army of workers who are the real benefactors of their race. He was in his youthful prime when he entered the public service, in which he continued, with but six years' interruption, to the end. Strong in body as well as in mind, he could bear the strain of continued labor as few men can; and the amount of work he did would frighten those who think that to hold an office is to have an easy time of it, taking the honor while others perform the labor. His associates in the treasury tell us that the man in the whole department who worked the hardest was the one at the head of it. And thus, taking all burdens upon his stalwart shoulders, he toiled like a giant to the very last.

No one, whether accepting or rejecting his views, ever doubted for a moment the honesty of his purposes, or his thorough apprehension of the situation. His firm and adequate grasp of affairs was never more signally manifest than in the recent financial crisis, when the country owed so much to the promptitude and efficacy of his measures. . . .

Harper's Weekly.

. . . The sudden death of Secretary Windom profoundly impresses the country; and yet such a death, immediate and painless, just as wise views of a great and pressing public question had been ably expressed, with a touching tone of timely warning, must be regarded for the dead as an euthanasia, although for the living the shock is tragical. . . . There was universal confidence in the ability and fairness and high integrity of Secretary Windom. He was a man of great public experience and conservative moderation of temperament. His mind was hospitable to new ideas, but it was not erratic or unwisely impulsive. His official discretion was great, and his death at this moment is a serious public loss.

The Independent (*N. Y.*).

February 5, 1891.

. . . Mr. Windom was a man of solid acquirements, sound and well-balanced judgment, and so self-contained that no panic of opinion could have swept him from his feet. . . . His experience, combined with his mental, moral, and personal qualities, admirably fitted him for a position which requires great clearness of brain, sincerity of conviction, and strength of nerve, particularly in a time like the present. . . .

Frank Leslie's Illustrated Weekly.

. . . Secretary Windom had won a world-wide reputation for his conservatism, ability, and financial skill.

He never hesitated to grapple with a financial problem, no matter how complicated and threatening it might be, and the business interests of the conservative sections of the country looked to him with hopeful eyes, in view of the aggressive demand of parts of the country for free silver and an almost unlimited currency. That Mr. Windom, had he lived, would have met this movement bravely and successfully, we cannot doubt. His death is a loss not only to the administration, but also to the whole country. As his record is recalled it will entitle him to rank with the ablest of his predecessors to whom the treasury portfolio has been intrusted.

Baltimore American.

February 2, 1891.

. . . Mr. Windom was an honest man, an able statesman, and a useful citizen, and he served his country long and well. . . .

Baltimore Daily News.

January 30, 1891.

. . . He was an able officer and patriotic citizen ; his loss will be severely felt by the administration, of which he was an adviser, and his death will be viewed with unfeigned regret by men of all parties and sections of the republic.

Evening Sun (N. Y.).

January 30, 1891.

. . . However men may differ from the late Secretary on his views of policy, it was felt that his training and conservative habit of mind combined to make great public interests safe in his hands.

New York Daily News.

January 31, 1891.

. . . In the death of Secretary Windom the Republican party has lost one of its wisest and most conservative counselors, and the country has lost a broad-minded, patriotic citizen, who, irrespective of his politics, was an honor to the nation. . . .

Philadelphia Evening Telegraph.

February 4, 1891.

. . . So long as he was living, Mr. Windom was criticised by the other party, after the fine, free, and frank fashion of the country. But now that he is dead there is no dispraise of him heard; political friends do not commend his official and personal life more than do his enemies. They have all, by a common impulse, as it were, agreed to testify to his worth as an official and as a citizen of the Great Republic. They have done this, not because it is forbidden to speak ill of the dead, but because they all perceive that his life was so free from offense that there is no ill to speak of him. Being dead, everybody frankly recognizes the fine integrity of his character and pays tribute to it. It is, of course, unfortunate that every servant of the country must die in order that he may be justly spoken of; but it shows that the American people are not wholly bad when they can, even too late for the subject to hear of it, freely acknowledge his worth and usefulness. The common, universal praise of Secretary Windom, the general regret which has been expressed

regarding his death, have been highly creditable to the people of this country; but they would have been infinitely more creditable if they had been expressed while he was living, and oppressed by the difficulties of his great office. A Secretary of the Treasury needs to be a man of more than ordinary ability and probity. Secretary Windom was, as everybody now concedes, precisely that kind of man.

New York Press.

February 3, 1891.

The late Secretary of the Treasury, William Windom, was noted among his friends for two characteristics. He had a kindly nature. He had a judicial character. The first made him a lovable man, a devoted husband, a model father. The second gave him the power, which he wielded as the head of the treasury, to look at both sides of every question which presented itself to him, and make a decision as nearly impartial as it is possible for a human being to make. . . . The extraordinary circumstances of Mr. Windom's death, with the plaudits just earned by the most brilliant speech of his life still ringing in his ears, awaken such unusual interest in those last masterly periods as to make it likely that his dying plea for his country's prosperity will rank among the notable orations of her history. And this not by attaching a fictitious or morbid value to the speech, but by directing to it the general attention and appreciative study that it deserves.

Secretary Windom's dying speech ought for the next five weeks to be the bible of every Republican member of Congress.

Wall Street Daily News.

. . . There has been no shock touching the business and political interests of the country greater than that following the startling and tragic death of Secretary William Windom. It has been the singular good fortune of our government to have had the services, as minister of finance, from the time of Alexander Hamilton down to Mr. Windom, of men of signal ability, broad views, wide comprehension, and an integrity which forbade their making profit out of their position. There is certainly no other nation in the world which can point to a line of succession which scandal has tried in vain to smirch, and which has always proved able to meet any emergency, though some have arisen which would have appalled any man not imbued with profound patriotism and confidence in the great American people. Chase was the father of the legal tender, Sherman the master of resumption of specie payments, Windom the author and successful agent of a refunding scheme at which a minister with the resources of Europe at his command would have quailed. . . .

New York World.

February 3, 1891.

In 1874 the West was dominated by the Grange, and many laws hostile to railroads were enacted by state legislatures. An effort was made to bring all the railroads of the country within the grasp of a drastic federal statute, and to make the United States government the general regulator of freight charges. In this

emergency Mr. Windom was made the chairman of a Congressional committee charged with the duty of investigating the whole subject of the business of transportation from the interior to the seaboard. Mr. Windom's report is a monument to his indefatigable labor. It effectually put an end to the movement to give to the government control of the railroads of the country. It so fully displayed the intricacy of the business that, ever since it was published, the most eager enemies of the corporations have hesitated as to the policy of putting politicians in charge of it. . . .

Mr. Windom's position in the present Cabinet has been that of a sane bimetalist, and his loss is therefore a serious one to the conservative interests of the country. Mr. Windom's career is one well worthy to be remembered. Many of its features will give to those whom he has left behind him cause, not merely for satisfaction, but for pride. He quits the world in the prime of his strength, and when he was an important factor in a great national problem.

Cleveland Leader and Herald.

January 30, 1891.

. . . Every public man of Mr. Windom's stamp is needed in the service of the people, and never more than now. He has fallen as a leader stricken down in battle, and in the most stirring rush of the great struggle now going on between the true and the false in national finance.

Cleveland Plaindealer.

January 31, 1891.

The late Secretary Windom was a strong party man, but it is pleasant to note the unanimity with which men of all parties testify to his good qualities and express their heartfelt sorrow at his death. . . . The spontaneous and sincere tributes of friendship and esteem for the late Secretary coming from his political opponents illustrate anew the words of the late General Garfield on a kindred occasion: "The flowers that grow over the garden walls of party politics are the sweetest and most fragrant that bloom in the gardens of this world."

Cincinnati Commercial Gazette.

January 30, 1891.

. . . In the service of his State and of the nation, in both halls of Congress and in the Cabinet, in every situation, Mr. Windom was earnest, faithful, steady, courageous, and strong.

Detroit Times.

January 30, 1891.

The sudden death of Secretary Windom deprives the nation of the presence, influence, and magnificent public services of a great financier, and one against whose name and fame there stands no mark of dishonor. He was a strong, upright man, keenly intent on the public welfare. At every hour of the long years of his trust at the head of the nation's funds, he has been wise, alert, and masterful. . . .

Detroit Tribune.

. . . Mr. Windom's private life has been blameless, and his public services have been of the most distinguished character. He was successful both in business and politics; and in legislative and executive capacities he had established a reputation for statesmanship of a high order, and for unimpeachable personal and political integrity.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

January 31, 1891.

. . . Mr. Windom will hold a place among the half-dozen ablest and most successful men who have been at the head of the financial arm of the government. His funding operations in 1881, when he had charge of the Treasury Department in the Garfield administration, and his earnest and not altogether fruitless endeavors in the past two years to solve the silver problem, have gained for him a claim to the grateful and lasting remembrance of his country.

St. Louis Post Dispatch.

January 30, 1891.

. . . Secretary Windom was a well-versed, watchful, and efficient manager of the treasury; both under Garfield and under Harrison he proved himself fertile in resources and bold in applying them. . . .

The Bankers' Monthly.

Chicago.

. . . Mr. Windom, adding to previous great services, had successfully steered the country through the long monetary stringency of 1890, and the panic of its closing months, and had earned the good will and gratitude of the whole nation for his skill and patriotism, evincing courage of the highest order, and confidence in the country and her resources far beyond ordinary men, and could look forward to the continued gratitude of the people. . . .

Maine State Press.

February 5, 1891.

. . . Men of wisdom and sober judgment, whose minds are so well informed that the follies of the hour and the clamors of demagogues and the desire for office cannot lead them astray, are not so plenty that the loss of one is not a national loss. While the death of Mr. Windom at this time is a misfortune for the whole country, it is peculiarly so for the administration of President Harrison. His ability as a financier and character as a man commanded the respect of the great financial circles upon which so much of the business prosperity of the country depends.

Charleston (S. C.) Daily Sun.

January 30, 1891.

. . . Mr. Windom was one of the most valued members of President Harrison's Cabinet, and his death is a serious loss to the administration. Almost his entire

life has been spent in the public service, and his ability as a financier was unquestioned. He was a man who had the courage of his convictions. . . . Personally he was a man of such a pleasant and amiable disposition that he endeared himself to all with whom he came in contact, and his friends were confined to no political party. The news of his death will be heard with sorrow everywhere; and his family will have the sympathy of every one in this their time of affliction.

Richmond (Va.) Dispatch.

January 31, 1891.

. . . Men of all parties will join in honoring Mr. Windom's public services and personal worth, and the stricken wife and family will receive the sympathy of all good people.

San Francisco Pacific.

February 4, 1891.

William Windom was one of the choice men of our land. He was nearly a model man in all the relations of life. Alike in his public and private walks, he was without reproach. . . . While we are saddened by his being taken away, we may be grateful to God for the presence and power of such a man through so many years.

Daily Evening Bulletin (San Francisco).

January 30, 1891.

. . . By virtue of his known opinions and ability, President Harrison selected Mr. Windom as his Secretary of the Treasury. The financial history of his ad-

ministration, especially of the last year, vindicated his choice. Mr. Windom's liberal use of the treasury surplus during the recent money stringency undoubtedly prevented a financial disaster. His death is a serious embarrassment to the administration at a time when the financial situation needs wise and firm consideration and action. A strong man has been cut down in the midst of his usefulness, when he could least be spared.

Mt. Vernon (Ohio) Republican.

The death of Secretary Windom was a great shock to the country and a serious blow to the administration. He was one of the safest and most conservative financiers in the land, and enjoyed the respect and confidence of the business world. As United States Senator and Secretary of the Treasury he has rendered great service to his country, and his name will ever be revered among Americans as a loyal and patriotic statesman and as a financial pillar of great strength. As a private citizen and as a public officer, Mr. Windom was alike estimated and respected. None loved him so well as those who knew him best, and throughout his long public career no transaction of his, public or private, has been tainted or viewed with suspicion. He was one of nature's noblemen, and his death casts general gloom over the country.

Denver Times.

. . . Mr. Windom's administration of the Treasury Department was conservative and able. He was the leader in the school of finance that would proceed cau-

tiously to the adoption of the double standard. The West did not always indorse his policy, but ever respected his opinions and believed in his patriotism. The great minister of finance, whose career closed so suddenly and so dramatically, was indeed equal to every public trust committed to him, and was true to all the obligations of private life.

Springfield (Mass.) Republican.

. . . As Secretary of the Treasury for a second time, Mr. Windom had won the respect of the people in a marked degree. No member of the administration has discharged the duties of his office to greater and more general satisfaction than had he, and he held this important post at perhaps as trying a time financially as had been experienced since the resumption of specie payments. . . .

Irish World.

February 7, 1891.

. . . As United States Senator and Secretary of the Treasury Mr. Windom had achieved a reputation that deservedly placed him among the foremost of American statesmen.

Independent Statesman (Concord, N. H.).

February 5, 1891.

. . . He honored his State, his country, and himself by his public services, and his death is a public loss.

Chicago Star-Sayings.

January 30, 1891.

. . . Mr. Windom was one of the few men who have succeeded in studying finance, and really grasping the main points in dispute and debate with regard to it. His service to his nation was long and faithful, and he was an honor to the party which was proud to claim him as a member. There is no need in this case to act on the policy "of the dead, nothing unless it is good." Mr. Windom's public career is known far and wide, and his private life was above suspicion and without reproach. It matters not whether his views were exactly those most popular in the West; the country has lost a great and good man, and the Republican party has lost an able leader and adviser.

Milwaukee Daily News.

. . . In whatever position he has been placed, Mr. Windom has discharged its duties with ability and credit to himself and constituency.

Milwaukee Sentinel.

February 2, 1891.

. . . Perhaps nobody has foreseen as Mr. Windom did the future of water transportation in the United States. . . . He outlined what will one day be realized, — a general development of waterways that will reduce the cost of transportation, and enable the United States, with its ever-increasing agricultural products, to command the world's markets in the face of all possible competition from India and the agricultural regions of South America. . . .

Kansas City Star.

January 30, 1891.

. . . As a financier Secretary Windom will occupy a prominent place, and even those who are not in harmony with his ideas in relation to the money question will be ready to adm that he was a fine type of an American citizen, and that the country sustains a great loss by reason of his untimely death.

Missouri Statesman.

February 4, 1891.

. . . We did not have part nor lot in his political relations, nor share his convictions of public money. He was a Republican and we are a Democrat. Yet we are free to say that the recent death of no public man touched us more deeply or is more sincerely regretted than the death of Secretary Windom. . . . Respectful, tolerant, and conservative, William Windom was a Christian gentleman, as well as a high and able official in President Harrison's Cabinet.

Louisville Courier-Journal.

January 30, 1891.

. . . Mr. Windom served long in public life, and both as Cabinet officer and as legislator made an enviable reputation for earnestness and honesty.

Louisville (Ky.) Commercial.

. . . He died in the spirit of devotion to his country as truly as ever soldier died on the battle-field.

Covington (Ky.) Extra.

February 2, 1891.

. . . Many years spent in the difficulties and complications of high and responsible positions have left neither

taint nor stain, nor even a suggestion of either, on the honored name of Secretary Windom. . . . It is a melancholy pleasure now to see that virtues such as these are able to obliterate all party lines, and hush all clashing differences for the time being in the right with which they claim the undivided honor of the American public. This has been given generally and deservedly by all sections, by all classes, all parties. It is the last and crowning distinction with which the name of Secretary Windom will descend to posterity.

New Orleans Daily Picayune.

February 1, 1891.

. . . Mr. Windom established a name for soundness of judgment and financial ability that were all his own, and which made him play a most conspicuous part during the financial troubles which convulsed the commercial world during the present winter. . . .

New Orleans Times Democrat.

January 30, 1891.

. . . Mr. Windom has proved himself a safe and conservative Secretary during the two years he has presided in the treasury.

New Orleans Republican.

February 6, 1891.

The death of Secretary Windom has removed from among American statesmen one in whom the whole country reposed the greatest confidence. Mr. Windom's career as a financial head of this government has been marked by a careful and conservative policy that recommended his sound judgment to the whole people.

Excerpts from Editorials in Minnesota Journals

The following expressions are extracted from editorials in Minnesota papers: —

Winona Daily Republican.

January 30, 1891.

To say that the intelligence of Mr. Windom's death received at an early hour this morning was stunning in its effect upon the sensibilities, but feebly expresses the nature of the shock to his personal friends in Winona, and, indeed, it may be added with truth, to the community of his former townsmen in general. His public duties had for many years compelled a residence at Washington, so that he was only at intervals seen in Winona, and the younger generation accordingly knew but little of him personally. His public record, however, — his splendid achievements in administering the financial department of the government under two Presidents, and scarcely less his unsullied private character, — rendered him in one sense familiar to all, and the esteem and respect in which he was held by those whom he still regarded as his townsmen and neighbors was, and continues to be, of the most sincere and exalted nature. . . .

No man in our public life was ever more highly es-

teemed for his private worth as well as for the value of his public services; and now that he has passed from the stage of action, those whom we have been accustomed to regard as his political enemies are among the first to give heartfelt acknowledgment of the fact. . . .

To the administration, the death of Mr. Windom at this critical juncture comes as a peculiarly severe blow. By the country at large it will be regarded with profound sorrow. The people of Minnesota especially will mourn the loss of one who was devoted to their interests, and who has shed lustre upon the State in every capacity in which he has represented it.

Winona Daily Herald.

January 30, 1891.

The greatest citizen Winona ever had, the greatest citizen of Minnesota, one of the greatest of the nation, is no more. Secretary Windom is dead. His many friends in the city received the news this morning with blanched faces and tearful eyes. . . . William Windom was one of the giants of this generation. His fame was not confined to his State, nor even to the nation; it was world-wide. He has been a central figure in national affairs for thirty years, and in 1880 was the universal choice of Minnesota for the Presidency. As the Secretary of the Treasury under President Garfield, his financial ability was made manifest. When President Harrison chose him for the portfolio of the treasury, the nation knew it could not be in better hands.

To-day Minnesota mourns her greatest citizen. The grief will be sincere and universal. But his life is before us. Let us try to emulate his virtues and his patriotism.

Minneapolis Tribune.

. . . Mr. Windom was an admirably balanced man, — great in brain, great in heart, great in sagacity, great in practical application. There was no erraticism in his nature. His mind was luminous, his knowledge comprehensive, his insight keen, his judgment unerring, his executive ability unrivaled. All these qualities were controlled by a cool and equable temperament which always gave him self-poise, and the faculty of doing the right thing at the right time. . . . Patriot, scholar, master of finance, eminent in all the best qualities that go to round out the character of the perfect citizen of the republic, he is mourned not alone by his State and country, but in the financial centres of the Old World, where he was a recognized authority in American national finance, and was regarded as America's leading exponent and champion of sound economic doctrines.

Minneapolis Times.

. . . He was a strong and upright American, a believer in the institutions of the republic, a powerful friend of his adopted State, a man of clear intelligence, of grand intellectual gifts, and as able a financier as the Republican party had in its ranks.

Minneapolis Journal.

. . . Had Mr. Windom been President of the United States his death would not have called forth more heartfelt expressions of grief and regret than are heard on every hand now.

St. Paul Pioneer Press.

. . . Mr. Windom's death will be a severe loss to the administration. It will be deplored by the people of the whole country, but by none so deeply as by the people of Minnesota, whom he so long represented in the two branches of Congress, and to whose interests he was always devoted. In the best sense of the term Mr. Windom was a good man, who strove to do his duty as he understood it in all the relations of life. There are not so many men of his stamp in the world that the world can afford to lose them.

St. Paul Globe.

. . . Mr. Windom did valiant work for the interests of this commonwealth while he represented it in Washington, and in the wider and more exacting sphere in which his executive duties have called him, his administration has been conservative, faithful, and effective. . . . The success, high character, and ability of William Windom have brought credit to the State of his home and residence; and the "Globe," along with the whole people of Minnesota, regrets his untimely death.

Chatfield Democrat.

. . . . William Windom was true and pure in his public life, and his name will live a proud one in the history of Minnesota.

Albert Lea Standard.

. . . Mr. Windom was a steadfast, strong, able, and good man, an honor to Minnesota and his country, and his memory will live in the esteem of the nation's noblest citizens.

Northfield Independent.

. . . Mr. Windom enjoyed in an unusual degree the confidence of the whole people. They believed him to be an upright man who always did what he thought was right, and who in the discharge of his public duties was not influenced by sordid motives, nor those which might appear to subserve his personal ambition.

Austin Transcript.

. . . We join in the universal sorrow of the nation mourning the loss of one of her noblest sons. Minnesota has especial reason for sorrow at the death of one who has given us especial prominence in the councils of the nation, while those who had the privilege of a personal acquaintance with him mourn a friend ever courteous and helpful and kind.

Austin Register.

. . . Mr. Windom was the foremost man in the State politically, and his career has been one marked only by honor, uprightness, and purity.

Duluth News.

In the death of Hon. William Windom, Secretary of the Treasury, America loses one of her greatest statesmen, and Minnesota her most honored citizen. So far as ability in the affairs of state goes, Minnesota does not contain and has not produced his equal, and the United States has few, if any, superiors. Regardless of politics, Minnesota is proud of her illustrious son, and will sincerely mourn his loss.

St. Cloud Journal-Press.

. . . Mr. Windom had in a marked degree that common sense which is "the genius of humanity," and makes its possessor eminently fit for public usefulness. His integrity was never questioned even by those who differed with him most widely in judgment on matters of financial policy, as his private life was peculiarly exemplary, and his name will long be honored by the people among whom he lived, and whom for so many years he faithfully served.

Mankato Free Press.

. . . Mr. Windom was a man whom Minnesota loved to honor. For over thirty-five years he was a conspicuous national figure, and in every position of trust he was faithful, conscientious, and just.

Benson Monitor.

All men and all parties recognized the superior ability of Mr. Windom, and he was readily accorded the right to be known as one of the foremost men of the day.

Marshall News-Messenger.

Mr. Windom was honest, resolute, zealous in the performance of the task allotted to him, and free from vanity and selfishness. Few public men have ever lived up to a higher ideal of true worth.

Sauk Center Herald.

. . . Modest, tolerant and charitable, Mr. Windom was as firm as a rock in his devotion to principle. His pure life and unflinching Christianity are not less legacies ever to be cherished by the nation than his distinguished ability as a financier. Thrice honored by Minnesota with a seat in the United States Senate, his entire official career has honored Minnesota a hundred fold. He owed the State of his adoption naught but the opportunity; the State owes him much for the conspicuous and masterly use of that opportunity.

Mr. Windom's Last Address

[Responding to the toast, "Our country's prosperity dependent upon its instruments of commerce," Mr. Windom said:]

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Board of Trade and Transportation:

Early association with the charter members of your Board, and full sympathy with the objects and purposes of its organization, make this an occasion of peculiar interest to me. The country owes you a debt of gratitude for what you have done in the interests of better and cheaper transportation. Fifteen years ago, when your Board was organized and entered upon its work, our facilities for the interchange of products were quite inadequate, and freight charges were more than double what they are now.

Improvements made by the transportation companies themselves have been very satisfactory; but though much has been accomplished in the cheapening of rates, much more remains to be done. If I might be allowed to suggest, paren-

thetically, another very desirable improvement, it would be that more water be put into our harbors and canals, and less into our railroad stocks.

I am to speak briefly of the instruments of commerce, in their relation to the wealth and prosperity of our country.

The subject is very broad, and my time very limited. I shall therefore confine my remarks to the two chief instrumentalities of commerce, — transportation and money. By the former, commodities change places, and by the latter they exchange owners. Even as to these I must content myself with the bare statement of a few facts and deductions.

A nation's wealth and prosperity are usually in proportion to the extent and success of its commerce, and commerce itself is dependent upon the adequacy and adaptation of these two essential instruments.

The history of all civilized countries attests the fact that the nation best equipped in these respects rapidly becomes the most powerful, the richest, and the most prosperous.

DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

Our own country is no exception to this rule. No nation has ever fostered more liberally, or protected more carefully, its internal and coastwise trade, than we have done, and the resultant mag-

nitude and prosperity of our domestic commerce is, I believe, without a parallel in the history of the world. For the accommodation and development of our home trade, we have built 45 per cent. of all the railroads of the world. We have more miles of railroad than all Europe, Asia, and Africa combined. The floating tonnage of the United States, engaged in coastwise commerce, and on our lakes and rivers, is very far in excess of that of any other nation. One or two comparisons will convey some idea of this stupendous commerce. The tonnage which passed through the Detroit River alone, during the 234 days of navigation in 1889, exceeded by 2,468,127 tons the entire British and foreign tonnage which entered and cleared at London and Liverpool that year in the foreign and coastwise trade.

The freight which passed through the St. Mary's Falls Canal in 1890 exceeded by 2,257,876 tons the entire tonnage of all nations which passed through the Suez Canal in 1889.

The freight carried on railroads of the United States in 1890 exceeded by over 36,000,000 tons the aggregate carried on all the railroads of the United Kingdom, Germany, France, and Russia in 1889.

Commodities are interchanged among our own people with greater facility, and at cheaper rates (distance being considered), than in any other country on earth.

The increase of national wealth and prosperity, largely due to this system of protection to our home markets and domestic trade, and to the generous development of these instrumentalities of commerce, has become the marvel of the world. Take a few comparisons, based upon the United States census of 1880, and upon figures furnished by Mr. Mulhall, the English statistician.

In manufactures we exceeded Great Britain in 1880 by $1,579,570,191, France by $2,115,000,000, and Germany by $2,305,000,000.

In products of agriculture we excelled Great Britain by $1,425,000,000, France by $625,000,000, and Germany by $925,000,000.

Our earnings or income for 1880 from commerce, agriculture, mining, manufactures, the carrying trade, and banking, exceeded those of Great Britain from the same sources by $1,250,000,000, France by $2,395,000,000, and Germany by $2,775,000,000.

Our increase of wealth from 1870 to 1880, as compared with that of other nations, was —

United States	$13,573,481,493
Great Britain	3,250,000,000
France	1,475,000,000
Germany	3,625,000,000

In 1880 our home markets consumed about ten billion dollars' worth of our own products, an amount equal to the entire accumulated wealth of

Spain, three times the increase of wealth in Great Britain for ten years, and seven times the increase of France for the same period. Our home markets that year absorbed five times as much of our manufactured products as Great Britain exported of hers to all the markets of the world.

Of course, I do not claim that all this marvelous development of wealth is due to railroads and ships, but without them it would certainly have been impossible. But for these instrumentalities of commerce, the rich farms of the West and South, and even of the Middle States, would have slumbered in primeval silence, and the myriads of shops and factories would never have existed. Were the ship and the railroad withdrawn, business would be paralyzed, and desolation would reign supreme over more than half of our broad domain.

FOREIGN COMMERCE.

Contrast these grand results of our liberally-developed domestic commerce, operating upon our protected industries, with the present shameful condition of our foreign carrying trade, which has not only been sadly neglected, but sometimes treated with actual hostility by the government.

There was a time when we stood first among the nations in shipbuilding, and Great Britain alone excelled us in ocean tonnage. Once, 95 per cent. of our imports and 89 per cent. of our ex-

ports were carried in American bottoms, and our merchant marine became the boast of every citizen and the envy of the world.

Now, so far as foreign trade is concerned, our shipyards are comparatively silent, and our flag has almost disappeared from the high seas. The relative decline in our foreign shipping has been constant and alarming, until in 1889 only $12\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. of our imports and exports was carried in American bottoms, being the smallest percentage in any year since the formation of the government. Time will not permit me to trace the rise and fall of this industry, or to point out in detail the causes which have resulted in our present humiliating and unprofitable condition. Suffice it to say, that the fault was not with the founders of our government. They fully appreciated the value and the necessity of a strong and healthy merchant marine, and left on record no doubt of their purpose to protect the interests of the Republic on the water as well as on the land. The second act passed by the First Congress — July 4, 1789 — provided for the protection of American shipping by the imposition of a discriminating duty in favor of teas brought in American vessels, thereby signalizing the first 4th of July under the Constitution by a declaration of commercial independence, as a supplement to the declaration of political independence made thirteen years before.

The third act of Congress, passed sixteen days later, imposed tonnage duties as follows: —

	Cents.
American vessels, per ton	06
American-built vessels belonging to foreigners, per ton	30
All other vessels, per ton	50

On the first of September the same year Congress prohibited any but American vessels from carrying the American flag.

By the tariff act of 1794, an additional discriminating duty of 10 per cent. was levied on all goods imported in vessels not of the United States. And in all changes of the tariff prior to the War of 1812 this discriminating duty of 10 per cent. was reënacted. So great was the development of our shipbuilding and shipping interests under the fostering influence of these acts, that we sold ships amounting to hundreds of thousands of tons to foreigners, and soon took front rank among maritime nations.

Voicing the national pride in 1825, Daniel Webster said: "We have a commerce which leaves no sea unexplored; navies which take no law from superior force." How like bitter irony these words would sound in 1891! The brilliancy of our achievements on the ocean begat over-confidence, and, listening to the siren voice of free trade, we gradually yielded to the seductive

phrase, "reciprocal liberty of commerce," which at that time became very popular, until in 1828 Congress swept away all protection to our foreign shipping interest, and opened our ports to the ships of all nations, on the same terms as to our own. So strong had our position become under the protective policy of the first twenty-five years of national life, that our merchant marine continued to be prosperous so long as wooden vessels were the only vehicles of ocean commerce, and other nations refrained from heavy subsidies to their ships. But when wooden vessels began to be supplanted by iron steamers, and European governments poured their contributions into the treasuries of their steamship companies, the decadence of American shipping began, and has continued ever since. How could it be otherwise? The American people ask no odds against any in the world. Give them an even chance and they will distance all competitors, but how can they be expected to compete unaided against foreign shipyards and shipowners, backed by the power and the treasuries of their governments? The amount which has been thus contributed to sweep our commerce from the seas cannot be accurately stated, but it is known to have reached hundreds of millions of dollars.

The mischief and its cause are both apparent. What is the remedy? It cannot be found in the

reënactment of the legislation of 1789, because treaties stand in the way, and it would not now be expedient even if there were no treaties on the subject. In my judgment, the remedy is plain and easily applied. If we would regain our lost prestige, reinstate our flag upon the ocean, and open the markets of the world to American producers, we must make the contest with the same weapons which have proved so successful in the hands of our rivals. No nation can better afford this kind of contest than ourselves. Surely no object is of greater importance than the enlargement of our foreign markets, and nothing will contribute so much to that end as the command of direct and ample facilities for reaching them. The folly and the danger of depending upon our competitors for the means of reaching competitive markets cannot be expressed. Aid to our merchant marine is not aid to a class, but to the whole people, — to the farmer, the merchant, and the manufacturer, quite as much as to the shipbuilder and the shipowner.

But it will cost money. Will it pay? Yes, a hundred fold. The aggregate of our foreign carrying trade for the past twenty-five years, while not more than one tenth of our domestic trade, has, nevertheless, reached the enormous sum of $29,465,124,920. Estimating the cost of transportation at 10 per cent. of the value of the goods,

we have an expenditure of about $3,000,000,000, at least 80 per cent. of which — $2,400,000,000 — has been paid to foreign shipowners. If we add to this $20,000,000 a year paid for passage money, we have a grand total of $2,900,000,000 paid to foreign labor and capital during the last quarter of a century, *a sum larger by nearly two hundred millions than the maximum of our bonded debt growing out of the late war.* Are not the benefits which would accrue from paying these sums to our own people worth saving? During that period we have exported of gold and silver, to pay balances of trade against us, an excess of $607,000,000 more than we have imported. Had we carried a fair share of our own foreign commerce in American ships, owned by American citizens, and manned by American seamen, this vast sum, and much more, might have been retained at home to enrich our own people.

Suppose that for twenty-five years we had given $5,000,000 a year in aid of our foreign shipping, and reduced by that amount the prepayments of our bonded debt, should we not have been far better off than we are now?

Is it not high time these vast interests receive attention? Have we not tried the do-nothing policy long enough? Shall we give that protection and support to our foreign merchant marine that other nations give to theirs, and which we

freely give to all our other great interests; or shall we accept as inevitable our present shameful position? I regret to say that the uniform record of indifference, if not actual hostility, during the last fifty years, affords little reason for encouragement. In fact, the tendency of late has been to surrender to foreigners even our domestic commerce, rather than to assert ourselves upon the ocean. Discriminations of the most astonishing character have been made, both by Congress and by treasury regulations, in favor of Canadian railroad lines and steamships against our own. One instance of this kind may serve to illustrate the nature and extent of many other discriminations of like characer. Asiatic merchandise destined for New York, if brought in American vessels to San Francisco, must undergo all the forms and delays of entry, under the strict scrutiny of customs officers, and be then placed in cars heavily bonded for transportation through our own country to New York; while the same merchandise, if brought in Canadian or British steamships to Vancouver, is transferred at once, and without any substantial surveillance, to Canadian railways, which are not required to give bond, but are permitted to pass our frontier and proceed to New York or other Eastern ports unvexed by any of the disagreeable attentions of customs officers. The same discrimination has existed for years in

favor of European goods landed at Montreal and transferred to Canadian railroads for Western American ports, against goods landed at New York, Boston, and other Eastern ports, to be transported wholly through our own country to their Western destination. The result of these unfair and unjust discriminations against our own people and our own transportation lines has been not only seriously to jeopardize the revenues, but also to build up foreign transportation interests at the expense of our own.

"Reciprocal liberty of commerce" is a high-sounding, seductive phrase, but the kind of liberty our foreign shipping interest has enjoyed for the last fifty years is the liberty to die under unjust discriminations of the London Lloyds' Register Association, the crushing power of European treasuries, and the utter neglect and indifference of our own government. Reciprocity itself is a most valuable thing, if kept within the lines of protection; but reciprocity by which we surrender our merchant marine to our rivals, or give away a home market *worth ten times more to us than all the other markets of the world*, in the vain attempt to grasp an uncertain market abroad, is a policy freighted with immeasurable disaster.

Presidents of the United States have repeatedly expressed the national humiliation, and appealed to Congress for action in behalf of our

rapidly vanishing merchant marine; but thus far their words have fallen upon deaf ears. Let us hope that the urgent appeals of President Harrison on this subject may bear fruit in some well-devised measure of protection and encouragement.

MONEY.

Pardon a few words with reference to the instrument by which commodities exchange ownership.

It is as essential to commerce that the currency with which it is conducted be adapted, both in *quantity* and *quality*, to the wants of trade, as that the vehicles of transportation should be adapted to their purposes. If the circulation be deficient, trade is crippled; prices fall; obligations are dishonored; distrust is created; and commercial panic and disaster ensue. If, on the other hand, circulation be redundant, prices become temporarily inflated; wild speculations are stimulated; debts are recklessly contracted; credit is dangerously expanded, and for a time trade seems to float upon the high tide of success; when, suddenly, the failure of some large firm or banking-house discloses the true situation, and the entire fabric of fictitious prosperity falls with a crash even more disastrous than can be produced by a deficient circulation.

The ideal financial system would be one that

should furnish just enough of absolutely sound currency to meet the legitimate wants of trade, and no more, and that should have enough elasticity of volume to adjust itself to the varying necessities of the people. I know this seems difficult of attainment, but I believe it is substantially possible. Could such a circulating medium be secured, the gravest commercial disasters which threaten our future might be avoided. These disasters have always come when unusual activity in business has caused an abnormal demand for money, as in the autumn, for the movement of our immense crops. There will always be great danger at those times under any cast-iron system of currency, such as we now have. Had it not been for the peculiar conditions which enabled the United States Treasury to disburse over $75,000,000 in about two and a half months last autumn, I am firmly convinced that the stringency in August and September would have resulted in widespread financial ruin. Like commercial conditions will frequently occur, but it is not at all probable that they can be encountered, and their consequences averted by like action of the government; nor is it desirable that such power should be lodged with the Secretary of the Treasury.

I am thoroughly convinced that a better method can be devised, which will, in a large degree, place the power of expansion and contraction in

the hands of the people themselves. The opportunity for securing such a currency may be found in our bonded debt, which should, in my judgment, be in part exchanged for inter-convertible bonds, bearing a low rate of interest, and always interchangeable for money at the will of the holder. Of course I cannot now enter upon an argument on this subject, but I may be excused for briefly mentioning the only objection I have ever heard to the plan which has any apparent weight, viz., that it would cause an outflow of money from the treasury when speculations run high, and an inflow in times of threatened panic, and would therefore tend to "inflate inflation and contract contraction." This objection was conclusively answered and the policy triumphantly vindicated in 1862 and 1863, under the administration of Salmon P. Chase, who was one of the ablest Secretaries of the Treasury we have ever had. Mr. Chase had urged and Congress had authorized what he called the "Savings Bank of the People," whereby they could deposit in the treasury up to the limit of $100,000,000, and receive an inter-convertible bond, drawing not more than 5 per cent. interest, which bond was again convertible into cash at the will of the holder on ten days' notice. It is well known that the year 1862, and the first half of 1863, was a period of most active speculation, and yet those deposits continually increased, until on

June 30, 1863, they had overrun the limit, and amounted to $104,934,102.

In August and September of 1863 the unusual activity of business had placed the country in the same condition it was last autumn. A severe stringency set in, and panic was threatened. Did this vast deposit of over $100,000,000 remain in safe hiding, and thereby intensify the stringency? Exactly the reverse occurred. At the time when it is argued that everybody who could would avail himself of this safe and convenient place for hoarding money, and draw four and five per cent. interest on it until the storm should pass the money actually flowed out at the rate of millions a day, until on December 1, 1863, $59,427,000 had come out to the relief of business, and a commercial crisis had been thereby averted. I commend this item of history as of more value than any theory.

The *quality* of circulation is even more important than the *quantity*. Numerous devices for enlarging credit may, and often do, avert the evils of a deficient circulation; and a redundancy may sometimes modify its own evils before their results become universal; but for the baleful effects of a debased and fluctuating currency there is no remedy, except by the costly and difficult return to sound money. As poison in the blood permeates arteries, veins, nerves, brain, and heart, and speedily brings paralysis or death, so does a de-

based or fluctuating currency permeate all the arteries of trade, paralyze all kinds of business, and bring disaster to all classes of people. It is as impossible for commerce to flourish with such an instrument as it is for the human body to grow strong and vigorous with a deadly poison lurking in the blood. Such a currency is bad enough in domestic trade, but it is absolutely fatal to the prosperity of foreign commerce. The nation that attempts to conduct its foreign trade with a currency of uncertain value, or of inferior quality, is placed at a fearful disadvantage. It would seem superfluous to impress this universal and well-known experience, were it not too apparent that this nation has been in danger of repeating the costly experiment with just such a currency. The tendency of events has recently been in that direction, and the apprehension of danger created thereby has caused the loss, since December 1, of over $24,000,000 of gold from the treasury, and of probably a much larger amount from the circulation. I am happy to say, however, that this peril seems now to have passed, and it is to be hoped its evil effects will soon disappear. The "sober second thought" of the people is asserting itself as usual, and signal lights of safety are here and there becoming visible.

Let me speak very plainly on this most important subject.

Believing that there is not enough of either gold or silver in the world to meet the necessities of business, I am an earnest bimetalist, and concede to no one a stronger desire than I feel for the free and unlimited coinage of silver, as soon as conditions can be reached, through international agreement or otherwise, by which such coinage shall be safe. But it is my firm conviction that for this country to enter upon that experiment now, and under existing conditions, would be extremely disastrous, and that it would result, not in bimetalism, but in silver mono-metalism. Such an experiment would, in my judgment, prove a greater disappointment to its advocates than to any one else. They insist that it would expand the circulation, and permanently enhance the value of silver. I believe it would produce a swift and severe contraction, and eventually reduce the market value of silver. Let me briefly suggest some of my reasons for this belief: —

Free and unlimited coinage of silver by the United States, while the other great nations pursue an opposite policy, would invite all the owners of that metal, throughout the world, to exchange 371¼ grains of pure silver, worth about 83 cents, for 23.22 grains of pure gold, worth everywhere 100 cents. Nearly all the nations of Europe are anxious to exchange their silver for gold, and they would at once accept so tempting an

offer. The mint statistics of the Treasury Department show that the stock of full legal-tender silver in Europe amounts to $1,101,400,000, and that of this amount, the banks of France, Germany, Austria-Hungary, The Netherlands, and Belgium hold $428,866,665. A large part of these vast stocks of silver would be ready for transfer to us at once, and the swiftest steamers would be employed to deliver it to the treasury, in order that with the proceeds the owners might buy gold exchange on Europe before our stock of gold should be exhausted.

Would our own people await the arrival of these silver argosies from Europe before acting? Not unless the Yankee has lost his quick scent of danger and forgotten his cunning. Bank depositors, trust companies, the holders of United States notes and gold certificates, would instantly lock up all the gold at command, and then join the panic-inspired procession to the treasury, each and all anxious to be in time to grasp the golden prize before it is too late. Probably before the swiftest ocean greyhound could land its silver cargo in New York, the last gold dollar within reach would be safely hidden away in private boxes, and in the vaults of safe-deposit companies, to be brought out only by a high premium for exportation. This sudden retirement of $600,000,000 of gold, with the accompanying panic, would cause

contraction and commercial disaster unparalleled in human experience; and our country would at once step down to the silver basis, when there would be no longer any inducement for coinage, and silver dollars would sink to their bullion value.

When the silver dollar ceases to have more value than the bullion it contains, there will be little inducement to coin our own silver, and the cost of transportation will prevent its coming from abroad. How, then, will unlimited coinage either expand the circulation or enhance the value of silver?

As if determined to omit nothing which might accelerate these results, the advocates of present free coinage insist that it shall not await the slow process of mint operations, but that the printing-press shall be set to work providing certificates to be issued for silver bullion at one dollar for 371¼ grains.

When this consummation shall be reached, as surely it will be if unlimited coinage be adopted under existing conditions, the too ardent and impetuous lovers of silver will sadly realize the truth uttered by the wise king of Israel: "*He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver.*"

Mr. President and gentlemen, my subject has tempted me to impose upon your patience. I will close by merely calling your attention to one other

thing which I deem very important both to our commercial and financial interest, viz., the passage of the bill now pending in Congress for the establishment of an international bank, to facilitate our exchanges with Mexico and Central and South America. New York is destined, at no distant day, to become the financial as well as the commercial centre of the world, and such an institution would in my judgment be a long step toward that end, as well as a most valuable instrumentality for the promotion of commerce with those countries.

Give us direct and ample transportation facilities under the American flag, and controlled by American citizens; a currency sound in quality and adequate in quantity; an international bank to facilitate exchanges, and a system of reciprocity carefully adjusted within the lines of protection, — and not only will our foreign commerce again invade every sea, but every American industry will be quickened, and our whole people feel the impulse of a new and enduring prosperity.

WILLIAM WINDOM.

Born in Belmont County, Ohio, May 10, 1827.

Admitted to the Bar, 1850.

Elected to the thirty-sixth, thirty-seventh, thirty-eighth, thirty-ninth, and fortieth Congresses.

Appointed to the United States Senate 1869.

Elected to the United States Senate 1871.

Reëlected 1877.

Appointed Secretary of the Treasury by James A. Garfield 1881.

Reëlected to the United States Senate 1881.

Appointed Secretary of the Treasury by Benjamin Harrison 1889.

Died in the City of New York, January 29, 1891.

Buried in Washington, February 2, 1891.

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